Saturday, June 16, 2012 ★★ 11 sections / Vol. 27 / No. 188 P18 | Mobile Alerts: Text INQ ON BREAKING to 4407 | www.inquirer.net Twitter: @inquirerdotnet | Philippine Inquirer Group of Publications Twitter: @inq7news

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

DISASTER READY Government soldiers ready rescue boats for deployment to northern Luzon just in case Tropical Storm "Butchoy" changes course and hits land. The government weather bureau has ruled out a landfall in the country. However, fishermen were warned to stay dry and refrain from going out to sea. NONOY ESPINOSA

Arab TV reporter disappears in Sulu

Journalist known for Bin Laden interview

By Julie Alipala
Inquirer Mindanao

ZAMBOANGA CITY—A veteran Middle Eastern TV reporter who had interviewed Osama bin Laden months before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks has disappeared with his two Manila-based crewmen while on a reporting trip on Jolo island, officials said on Friday.

Police said the driver of the journalists' vehicle was also missing. Also still unaccounted for was a local female guide, The Associated Press reported.

Baker Abdulla Atyani, Al-Arabiyah's TV bureau chief for Southeast Asia, had not contacted authorities since Thursday, when he was last seen in Jolo, said the Sulu provincial police chief, Senior Supt. Antonio Firayra.

Authorities were trying to verify reports that Atyani may have traveled to Jolo's mountainous jungles to interview members of the Abu Sayyaf group and some of their foreign hostages as part of a TV documentary, a military intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told AP.

ARAB, A6

KIDNAPPED OR WORKING? In this photo taken on Monday, veteran Middle Eastern TV reporter Baker Atyani poses by the seawall in Jolo, Sulu province, before he was reported missing. Atyani, a Jordanian, met and interviewed Osama bin Laden and his aides in Afghanistan months before the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. AP

China pulling out ships from shoal—DFA

By Tina G. Santos

CHINA has expressed its intention to withdraw its vessels from the lagoon at the disputed Scarborough Shoal in the West Philippine Sea, Foreign Affairs Secretary Albert del Rosario said yesterday.

"The Chinese still have vessels in the lagoon and we're waiting for them to remove those vessels from that area," Del Rosario told reporters at Manila Peninsula Hotel in Makati City.

Del Rosario spoke to reporters on the sidelines of the signing of the agreed minutes of the 2nd Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation (JCBC) with visiting Bahraini Foreign Minister U Wanna Maang Lwin.

China committed to withdraw its vessels "a couple of days ago," Del Rosario said.

But would China honor its commitment?

CHINA, A6

'Butchoy' gains strength; signals up

By Kristine L. Alave

TROPICAL Storm "Butchoy" gained more strength yesterday, but slowed down over the Pacific Ocean, according to the weather bureau.

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) also said Butchoy would not make a landfall in the country.

In its 5 p.m. advisory yesterday, Pagasa said Butchoy was seen 500 kilometers east of Guiuan, Eastern Samar province, with maximum sustained winds of 110 kph near the center and gusts of 140 kph.

BUTCHOY, A4

Church upbeat P-Noy will keep word; militant farmers wary

By Jocelyn R. Uy
and Norman Bordadora

CATHOLIC Church leaders yesterday expressed confidence that President Aquino would keep his word on the full implementation of agrarian reform, but vowed to remain vigilant to make sure that land distribution to farmers is completed by 2014 as promised.

Farmers across the country, however, expressed guarded optimism, hope

CHURCH A4

Coke adds fizz to Burma buzz

NEW YORK—You can't beat the real thing.

For the first time in 60 years, Coca-Cola Co. plans to "open happiness" and start selling its drinks in Burma (Myanmar), following the US government's decision to suspend investment sanctions on the country for its democratic reforms.

Burma is one of three countries where the world's largest beverage company doesn't do business. The other two are

CORE, A10

Facebook complicates conflicts in families

NOT LONG AGO, estrangements among family members, for all the anguish they can cause, could mean a fairly clean break. People would cut off contact, never to be heard from again unless they reconciled.

But in a social network world, estrangement is being redefined, with new complications. Relatives can get vivid glimpses of one another's lives through Facebook updates, Twitter feeds and Instagram pictures of a grandchild or a wedding reheasal dinner. And those glimpses are often painful reminders of what they have lost.

"I frequently hear, 'I heard

FACEBOOK, A10

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WEATHER FORECAST

TODAY: Source: Data "TODAY" not provided at 08:00. Not confident of Tomas Torres Torres Capital No. 1 Eastern Visayas

Metro Manila	Rainy	Isolated thunder	Showers and thunderstorms
Baguio	Occasional rain	Manila	Showers and thunderstorms
Pagasa-an	Occasional rain	Iloilo	Showers and thunderstorms
Laoag	Occasional rain	Tacloban	Showers and thunderstorms
Puerto Princesa	Occasional rain	Cebu, Bacolod	Showers and thunderstorms
Tuguegarao	Occasional rain	Zamboanga	Showers and thunderstorms
Legaspi	Occasional rain	Cagayan de Oro	Showers and thunderstorms
Catarman	Occasional rain	Davao	Showers and thunderstorms

Source: Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA)

Second FRONT PAGE

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38 now vieing for SC post

By Jaymee Anzig

THREE junior justices of the Supreme Court have also been nominated for the position of the Chief Justice, according to the Judicial and Bar Council (JBC).

Justices Jose Perez, Roberto Abad, and Ms. Lourdes Sereno were appointed to the Court in 2009 and 2010.

But unlike their five senior colleagues, who are considered automatically nominated under the JBC's rules, the three would have to be screened and interviewed by the council.

At least 25 others, many of them legal luminaries and current and former government officials, have also been nominated, bringing the total nominees to 30.

Abad, who is set to retire in 2014, was nominated by lawyer Nilo Divina, dean of the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law. At 68, Abad is the oldest member of the Supreme Court.

Abad was also recommended by former Sen. Rene Saguisag, who said the short tenure of Abad would serve as a cooling off period following the tensions created by the impeachment of Chief Justice Renato Corona.

Perez, former Court Administrator, was nominated by the Arts Studio Inc Association. He is considered as the Supreme Court's first "homegrown justice" and the "ultimate trailer," having spent all his professional life as lawyer in the Supreme Court.

Sereno, President Aquino's first appointee to the court, was nominated by Felino Rene Sengco, Reuben de Guzman and lawyer Noel Thaddeus Bertis.

The latest nominees as of yesterday were Election Commissioner Rene Sarmiento; Minister Leonen, government chief negotiator with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front; University of the East College of Law dean Amado Valdez; Integrated Bar of the Philippines president Roan Libarios; former congressman Teddy Boy Locsin; former solicitor general Paulo Clarete and former Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla.

Sarmiento was nominated by Teresita Asuncion-Quezon, daughter of former President Manuel L. Quezon, and professors of the law faculty of the College of Law, led by its dean, Myrna Feliciano.

"It's a long shot, but I am very honored by the trust and confidence they have in me," Sarmiento told the Inquirer.

Quezon and Asa cited Sarmiento's being a member of the 1986 Constitutional Commission, his stint as a human rights lawyer, his involvement in the peace talks with communist insurgents and Muslim secessionists and his current work in the Commission on Elections (Comelec).

"His long and faithful years in government service, private practice and academe will make him a worthy Chief Justice," Quezon said in her endorsement letter.

"We are certain that working for social justice and human rights will be the hallmark of his stay in the Supreme Court," added Asa and the San Beda professors.

Growing list

Sarmiento, who is set to retire from the Comelec in April next year, was also nominated to two seats in the Supreme Court in 2010.

With the growing list of nominees, the National Union of Peoples Lawyers (NUPL) said the next chief justice should not only be independent but also economically.

"Kung sa retirals, isang or walang dahilan or suweldo, ati hard or upstart, what really matters is whether the new Chief Justice will inspire the trust, confidence and respect of the day, the bench and most importantly the general public that has been spurned and frustrated with our justice system," NUPL secretary general Edre Olalia said in a statement.

Olalia said the next Chief Justice must also be pro-people and the champion of human rights.

I'm staying —Almendras

By Kong B. Nasol

AMID persistent rumors of a Cabinet reshuffle, Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras yesterday said he would stay put as his current post for as long as President Aquino wants him there.

In a briefing presenting Almendras and rumors of him being assigned to another post likely surfaced "because apparently, some people probably want me out of the picture, possibly [so that] I will be home in another job."

"It will be the President who will be the one to make that decision, and until such time that the President makes that decision, I think we should all wait. Until that decision is made, I still continue to do my job as best as I can. There is no certainty that I will stay, there is also no certainty that I will leave," Almendras said.

Almendras said he would not stay one minute longer in his position once President Aquino decides to replace him.

"I will not do anything to try to hold on to this job. I have no qualms of staying. I also have no qualms of being replaced. There are rumors that I am being demoted and I have no problem with that. You will even be a very welcome relief. It will be up to the Almighty team if there will be any changes. But as far as I am concerned, I have not been demoted, advised if there will be changes," he explained.

The energy chief, however, admitted that while there has been no official communication regarding his transfer, he has had "informal talks" with President Aquino about the things that can be done and postponed the things that can be done (implemented).

Almendras, however, did not say whether these talks involved his possible transfer.

As the Internal Revenue of Investigation, President Aquino has also yet to find a replacement for former NBI director Magtanggol Gatdula, who was sacked early this year.

Undersecretary Abigail Valte, President Aquino's deputy spokesperson, said an effort to change had been running the day-to-day operations of the NBI.

"The only reason I'm short [is] has been given. But we have not been advised of any announcements relative to the appointment to the NBI director position," Valte said when asked about the possible appointees to the post.

With Norman Bordadora

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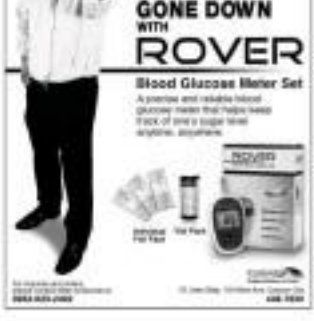

Ping at DILG? PNP chief mum

By Ed Top

BARTOLOME

EXCLUSIVE: National Police (PNP) Director General Nicanor Bartolome has refused to be drawn into speculation over rumors that Sen. Panfilo Lacson might be the next interior secretary, a post with supervisory powers over the police.

Bartolome told reporters the 140,000-strong police force would accept whoever is designated to the position now held by Interior Secretary Jesse M. Robredo.

"The President has a decision to make... We will accept whatever is the decision of the President," Bartolome said.

He said the PNP would continue to work closely with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), whether Robredo retains his post or Lacson, whose term will expire in 2013, is appointed.

Last week, President Aquino disclosed that he might invite Lacson and Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who are no longer eligible to run for re-election, to join his Cabinet but did not say to what position they would be appointed.

Lacson was PNP chief during the administration of deposed President Joseph Estrada. But Lacson later withdrew his support for Estrada at the height of the second People Power uprising that eventually toppled the latter who was accused of accepting payoffs from illegal gambling lords.

Asked about the matter last week, Robredo said he was not threatened by the rumors and made it clear that his tenure depended on President Aquino's confidence in him.

"I know I am occupying a post of confidence," he said.

Robredo, along with four other Cabinet members, has been repeatedly bypassed by the Commission on Appointments. He is expected to appear before the body when it resumes next month.

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Mike A withdraws motion to travel

By DJ Yap

Actor Miguel Aurejo is not leaving the country after all.

The husband of former Pasay Acts Gloria Macapagal Arroyo hastily withdrew his motion as the antigraft court to allow him to leave for Japan and Hong Kong after the court required him to waive his right to ask for the quashing of his case over the reconfiscated chopper deal.

As a result, he was not arraigned before the Sandiganbayan's Second Division on the charge that he sold two unused helicopters at brand-new prices to the Philippine National Police in 2008.

His lawyer, Mohamad Tupacalo, earlier asked the court for a "conditional arraignment" to allow a prejudice to their right to file pleadings to reverse the findings of probable cause.

During the hearing, Tupacalo asked Sandiganbayan Justice Teresita Dizo-Baldivia if the rules could be relaxed to accommodate his client's request, insisting that his right to travel was constitutionally protected. Aurejo had said he had accepted invitations to functions in Japan and Hong Kong.

Tupacalo contended that what he was asking for was a "slight deviation" from the rules procedure.

But Diaz-Baldivia wondered if in effect Aurejo's arraignment would mean he would have already given up his right to question the validity of the graft charge against him through a motion for judicial determination of probable cause.

Tupacalo noted that the Sandiganbayan's Fourth Division had allowed Arroyo to leave for Japan and Hong Kong on June 14. The Fourth Division is hearing his graft case in connection with the canceled national broadband network ZTE Corp. contract.

But Diaz-Baldivia pointed out that the case was different because Arroyo had already been arraigned before the Fourth Division.

She then asked Tupacalo if Aurejo would still wish to be arraigned if the motion making his right to file motions nothing to quash the case.

After briefly conferring with his client, Tupacalo told the court that were withdrawing the motion for leave to travel abroad as they would not want to lose the right to question the basis of the overbalance in filing the graft charge.

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Saturday - June 16, 2012
Memorial for Blessed Virgin Mary
1 Sam 2:1, 4-8, 9-7, 9

My heart rejoices in the Lord, my Savior.

1st Reading: Is 61:9-11

Their descendants shall be known among the nations and their offspring among the peoples.

All who see them will acknowledge that they are a race Yahweh has blessed.

I rejoice greatly in Yahweh, my soul exults for joy in my God, for he has clothed me in the garments of his salvation, he has covered me with the robe of his righteousness, like a bridegroom wearing a garland, like a bride adorned with jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its growth, and as a garden makes seeds spring up, so will the Lord Yahweh make justice and praise spring up before all the nations.

Gospel: Luke 2:41-51

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Feast of the Passover, as was customary. And when Jesus was 12 years old, he went up with them according to the custom of the feast. After the festival was over, they returned, but the boy Jesus remained in Jerusalem and his parents did not know it.

They thought he was in the company and after making the whole day they looked for him among their relations and friends. As they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem searching for him, and on the third day they found him in the Temple sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions. And all the people were amazed at his understanding and his answers.

His parents were very surprised when they saw him and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I were very worried while searching for you." "How he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Do you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" But they did not understand this answer.

Jesus went down with them, returning to Nazareth, and he continued to be subject to them. As for his mother, she kept all these things in her heart.

Reflection

Jesus are often their mothers' Calvary. "A sword shall pierce your own soul too" (v.35). The Jesus that pierced him pierced her too. That is the way with love. If you love, you will suffer. Everyone who has ever loved another human being is capable of being hurt or his or her account. If you love, you will suffer; if you do not love, you will still suffer! How do these two forms of suffering differ? If you love, you will have to suffer more at the hands of others. You will be joyful sufferings, but the refusal to love, which is the only cure for pain, suffering for a time, will bring you greater sufferings in the end. On this day, the pierced heart of Mary tells us that the pain of love is better than the pain that follows a refusal to love.

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SCAVENGERS collect recyclable materials washed ashore by strong waves on Manila Bay on Friday.

STRONG waves pound the seawall along Roxas Boulevard in Manila.

'Butchoy' gains strength; storm signals up

From page A1

Carrying heavy rains, Butchoy was moving westnorthwest at 11 kph, slower than its speed of 15 kph on Thursday night.

Butchoy also grew in diameter. According to Pagasa, the storm's diameter increased to 450 km from 300 km on Thursday afternoon.

Butchoy's slower pace and increased strength and size have made weather forecasters nervous.

Robert Sawi, chief of Pagasa's forecasting division, said storms derive their energy from the sea. The longer a storm stays over the sea, the stronger it gets, he said.

BAD NEWS. Tropical Storm "Butchoy" packs more power and is likely to become a typhoon. Good news. Pagasa says Butchoy will spare the Philippines.

Could intensify

Meteor Aurelio, a Pagasa forecaster, said there was an "80 percent possibility" that Butchoy could further intensify and become a typhoon.

"It still has a long way to cross it [over the] sea," he said.

He noted that with wind strength of 110 kph, Butchoy was nearing the threshold for typhoon classification.

Under Pagasa's system, typhoons have at least 118 kph maximum sustained winds near the center.

Forecasters said a high-pressure area that extended to the Bicol region here down on Butchoy, allowing down its northeasterly winds.

"Once the high-pressure area weakens, it will move faster northwest," Pagasa said.

Although Butchoy became more ferocious, Pagasa said it would spare the Philippines.

Aurelio said models showed that Butchoy would continue to track northwest and would not make landfall in the country.

Heavy rains

Bro Pagasa pronoled to issue public storm signal No. 1 over Eastern Samar. "It's moving southward, at least they are prepared," Aurelio said.

Although the Philippines will escape the wrath of Butchoy, the country has to prepare for heavy rains and gusty winds until Tuesday next week.

Pagasa said Butchoy would enhance the southwest monsoon over the next few days.

Aurelio said there would be frequent rains in parts of Luzon such as Mimaropa, Bicol, Cordillera, Ilocos and Pampanga provinces, and Metro Manila. Strong winds will whip Eastern Visayas and Bicol provinces, he added.

Local disaster response teams should be on alert for flash floods and landslides, Pagasa said.

It added that ships and fishermen should stay home for now.

"Fishing boats and other small watercraft are advised not to venture out into the mainlands of Luzon, Visayas and Eastern Mindanao due to big storm generated by the effects of the southwest monsoon and Tropical Storm Butchoy," Pagasa said.

Pagasa said Butchoy was expected to be 300 km east of Borongan, Eastern Samar, on Saturday. On Sunday, it will be 410 km east-southeast of Aurora. Butchoy will be 510 km east of Daet on by Monday.

Search suspended

Worsening weather forced the Navy and the Coast Guard yesterday to suspend the search for survivors of the sinking of the ferry MV Jessell Lyn II Shin, Odyssey province, on Tuesday night.

Commodore Rex Lorenzo, head of the Task Group Mindoro, said the search would resume once the weather improved.

The latest Coast Guard count put the number of missing passengers at five. Seven passengers had been confirmed dead, and 56 had been rescued.

The Office of Civil Defense in Eastern Visayas (OCD-8) called on all local disaster councils yesterday to alert as Butchoy neared the region.

Ben Lindo, OCD-8 administrative officer, said the office issued an advisory to all disaster councils to assess them that they would be on custody and loss damage when heavy rains brought by Butchoy hit Eastern Visayas.

Mayor Arnold Ensus of Guiuan, Eastern Samar, said that while she was praying that Butchoy would not hit her town, she activated the disaster response unit of the town.

Ensus said schools and barangay halls were ready to be used as shelters and rescue teams and relief operations were ready to move.

Missing fishermen

In the south, authorities yesterday continued to search rough seas in search for dozens of fishermen who had been reported missing since Monday.

The sea searches have centered in the waters of 66 more fishermen, including seven who were missing in foul weather off Davao del Sur province on Monday.

Ray Caballero, chief of the disaster council of Digos City in Davao del Sur, said the seven fishermen were based illegally in their registered boats in waters off Bot Matalino town on Thursday.

Caballero said the boats had been drifting toward the open sea for three days when rescuers found them. The fishermen, who were without food or water all that time, were now recovering, Caballero said.

'No signs of life'

In Surigao del Norte, Lt. Joel Gines-ag, local Coast Guard station commander, yesterday said a rescue team continued looking for Dave Bakerman, whose boat capsized near Siargel Island off Surigao City on Thursday.

"So far, we've found no signs of life, but we're not giving up," Gines-ag told the reporter.

He said the Coast Guard team was going to adjacent islands in the search area since the fishermen could have been washed ashore.

In Surigao province, Jun Solano, action officer of the provincial disaster council, said Navy and Coast Guard search and rescue units continued looking for fishermen whose boats failed to return on Monday.

The disaster office said only 27 fishermen from Mission were returned missing as of yesterday afternoon, down from 61 reported earlier by Solano.

Solano said the rescuers were scouring Surigaonon Bay for the missing fishermen.

The disaster office said 807 fishermen had been rescued. It said 765 families, or 2,025 people, were displaced by floods that hit four villages in Cebu. The town mayor, Mister James Yap, led the distribution of relief.

Earlier, more than 275 fishermen were rescued as they struggled to return to land.

Evacuations

Meanwhile, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) reported yesterday that more than 18,000 families were evacuated to safer grounds in the Bicol homelands caused by heavy rains that a low-pressure system over Mindanao induced on Monday.

Benito Ramos, NDRRMC executive director, told a radio station in Batasan City that local officials had been directed to monitor the situation and evacuate residents of their areas if needed.

Pembar Baron Bailey, assistant social welfare secretary of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, said her office had talked with operation officials about setting up stands as evacuation centers should floods hit the region.

"We have enough stocks of food," she said. With reports from Redemptor Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon; Jose Gobiaco, Inquirer Visayas; and Franklin Caligan, Orlando Dinoy, Joel Locsin, Maricris Nacino and Agustin Z. Zenit, Inquirer Mindanao

China pulling out ships from Scarborough Shoal, says DFA

From page A1

"That's precisely what we're waiting for," Del Rosario said. "We're waiting for them to meet their commitment to remove their vessels from the lagoon."

Citing reports from the Philippine Coast Guard, Del Rosario said there were 26 to 26 fishing boats inside the lagoon as of Thursday.

Situation stable

"According to the Coast Guard, the situation in the area remains the same ... stable," he said.

He said the Philippines no longer had any vessel inside the lagoon.

But the Coast Guard search and rescue vessel and the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources vessel remained outside the lagoon.

Raul Hernandez, Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson, said that as of Thursday, China had seven government vessels outside the lagoon.

When those vessels still go home, it will make negotiation, Hernandez said.

Del Rosario said he had no information about the Chinese freighter that reportedly flew over Scarborough Shoal earlier this week.

"It was videoed that there was one plane that passed by and no information on that it was our own reconnaissance that did that," Del Rosario said. "I don't have any information on the flights' at."

China had yet to comment on the latest information from Del Rosario as of yesterday, but China foreign ministry spokesperson Liu Weimin said in an article posted on the Chinese government website on Thursday that Chinese fishing boats were during "normal fishing" in Huangyan Island waters in the South China Sea, and "Chinese government vessels will continue to provide management and services for its fishing ships and fishermen."

Huangyan Island is China's name for Scarborough Shoal, which the Philippines calls Bajo de Masinloc and Panatag Shoal.

"The general situation tends to ease," Liu said. "China hopes the Philippines will not take moves that will complicate and magnify the situation."

China taking turns

Liu said China had noted remarks made by President Aquino as saying he had met Wednesday to commemorate China-Philippines bilateral relations. He said the remarks included words on raising tensions now comprising claims of sovereignty in the South China Sea.

According to Liu, President Aquino stressed that negotiations be attached to bilateral ties, and China also valued those relations.

"China hopes for concerted efforts by the two countries to push forward healthy development of the ties," Liu said.

But President Aquino, in his speech on Wednesday also upheld Philippine sovereignty and territorial integrity in the West Philippine Sea by speaking about Philippine and international laws.

Liu said China had taken note of 90, Aquino's names, but he pointed out that Philippine authorities had confirmed on many occasions that Huangyan Island was not within Philippine territory under the country's laws.

Liu said the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea did not constitute international law defining territorial claims.

"Therefore, it is undoubted that China owns sovereignty over Huangyan Island," he said.

Talks with Burma

Meanwhile, Del Rosario said he and the Burmese foreign minister discussed the standoff in Scarborough Shoal, area remaining intact to second month.

"We discussed it," Del Rosario said. "Essentially we're saying that we're out to defuse the situation. We want to break the impasse and we're in constant touch directly with China to do this."

Del Rosario did not directly say if the Philippines sought Burma's help, but he said Burma had committed to review the Fundamental elements that the Philippines submitted for the drafting of the Code of Conduct for the South China Sea "for possible support."

"We're trying to undertake this on a bilateral consultation directly with China," Del Rosario said. "We just explained to Burmese officials the situation just for their information. Of course, any form of support or assistance is welcome. We could benefit from the support of other countries."

Burma for settlement

Del Rosario said the Burmese officials favored settling the dispute through peaceful means, and they approved of bilateral consultations.

He said he hoped the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) would be able to help through the finalization of the Code of Conduct for the South China Sea.

"We said that we are interested in moving forward the basic elements that we formulated for that [code] and we hope that [Burma] will support it," Del Rosario said. "We're trying our best to move it forward and we're seeking the assistance and support of other members of Asean in order to be able to accomplish this," he added.

Help from Asean

Seeking the Asean Summit in Cambodia in April, the Philippines asked Burma to take the lead in resolving the West Philippine Sea dispute, and to bring the Spratlys claimants together toward "a rules-based, multilateral and peaceful resolution of the issue."

The Philippines emphasized in the summit the necessity of issues with respect to the drafting of the Code of Conduct for the South China Sea incorporating key elements to include a mutual for settling disputes and an administrative structure to implement them.

"We don't get anything on the table that is not negotiable," Del Rosario said when asked if the elements introduced by the Philippines were nonnegotiable.

"We think that it's a process of accommodation and compromise," he said. "We think that a code of conduct should be substantive, it should be crafted in a way that the disputes are moved forward for settlement."

Aside from the Philippines, Asean also includes Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Burma, Laos, Cambodia and Brunei Darussalam.

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Arab TV reporter disappears in Sulu

From page A1

In the wake of the disappearance of Alpaisi and his crewmates, the US State Department renewed its travel warning to businessmen in the Philippines, citing continuing terrorist threats and insurgent activities, particularly in Mindanao. (Unreleased story on this page).

Chief Supt. Manuel Pastrana, head of the Directorate for Police Operations in Western Mindanao, said the initial report they got was that Imam and his TV crewmen, Rolando Lanuza and Rolando Oda, were "kidnapped" today after meeting key contacts.

Pastrana told the business that Alpaisi and his two Filipino TV crewmen failed to return to their hotel after selling out on Tuesday. "It's premature to say they were abducted," he said, adding that search units are already looking for the three missing persons.

Pastrana said Alpaisi's group left the hotel without a guide.

BASILAN TRIO: Al-Jazeera TV bureau chief for Southeast Asia based in Jakarta, interviewers Sulu Gov. Sakur Tan (right) at the airport in Jolo on Monday. —

Rooms forcibly opened

Alpaisi, Lanuza, 32, and Oda, 29, arrived in Jolo—a hotbed of guerrilla operations by bomb attacks, kidnappings and beheadings—on June 11 and were welcomed by local reporter Nickee Bellanguez, according to Pastrana. The visitors checked in at Jolo State College Hotel.

The following day, June 12, Alpaisi and the two Filipinos were booked by a rebel muslimah from the hotel. They have not returned since, failing to show up for the Philippine Independence Day celebration on Tuesday despite having told officials they would cover the event.

"Up to this date, we have no reports on their whereabouts," Barrera said.

He said investigators had decided to forcibly open the two rooms that Alpaisi and his companions had rented at the hotel for any clues on where they might have gone.

'Missing for now'

"We don't know if he (Alpaisi) has been kidnapped. We don't know their objectives here," Jolo Mayor Hussin Amin told AFP by phone, adding they had been declared "missing for now."

Bellanguez told the business by phone that he was not involved in arranging Alpaisi's coverage. He said he was at the airport to see off Jolo Gov. Sakur Tan who was leaving for Zamboanga City when Alpaisi's team arrived.

Alpaisi introduced himself as a journalist and the public affairs team of Tan accommodated him. We noticed them throughout mainland Jolo and he even met Jolo Mayor Hussin Amin, Bellanguez said.

Bellanguez said the last time he saw the group left the hotel at around 9 p.m. that day. "We left him with Mayor Amin because the mayor said that he would make sure to bring them to the hotel when they checked in."

He said he later learned that Alpaisi's group left the hotel at around 5:45 a.m. on Tuesday.

Meeting Bin Laden

An ABS-CBN reporter, Lei Delfin, was planning to interview relatives of the al-Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf leaders in Jolo in 2000 when the group held her for almost for 18 days.

The Abu Sayyaf founder and self-holding two hostages—and a companion. There are conflicting reports whether an Indian hostage has died in captivity.

Alpaisi, a 40-year-old Jordanian based in Jakarta, Indonesia, was working for the Arabic satellite network Middle East Broadcasting Corp. in June 2001 when he met Bin Laden and fellow militant leader Ayman al-Zawahiri in Afghanistan. He said they told him that the coming weeks would hold "important surprises that will target American and its

US renews warning to citizens vs travel to Sulu

By Tina G. Santos

THE US Department of State has renewed its warning to American nationals about the risks of travel to the Philippines, specifically to the Sulu archipelago and Mindanao.

"US citizens should defer nonessential travel to the Sulu archipelago due to the high threat of kidnapping of international travelers and violence linked to insurgency and terrorism there," the State Department said.

"US citizens should exercise extreme caution if traveling to the island of Mindanao in the Southern Philippines," it added.

The advisory said that throughout Mindanao, criminal groups had clashed more violently with Philippine security forces, particularly in rural areas, and that terrorist groups had relocated to large urban centers and carried out bombings.

"In Cotabato City and in the Maguindanao and Sultan Kudarat provinces, the government maintains a state of emergency that corrupts a greater police presence in those areas," it said.

DFA: 'An improvement'

The advisory said however that "security and safety conditions in the urban centers of Davao City, General Santos City and Cagayan de Oro City in Mindanao are generally more controlled."

The latest advisory, issued on Thursday, replaced the travel warning The US issued on Jan. 6.

The Department of Foreign Affairs spokesperson said the new advisory was an "improvement" from previous advisories.

"The recent travel advisory ... omitted specific reference to any area of the country, including Manila, except Mindanao and Sulu," DFA spokesperson Raul Hernandez said in a text message.

"It also noted more controlled and safety conditions prevailing in the Mindanao cities of Davao, General Santos and Cagayan de Oro," Hernandez said.

Church upbeat P-Noy will keep word; militant farmers wary

From page A1

and skepticism over the President's commitment to addressing landless cases of the land reform.

Land reform advocate Christine Monsod meanwhile said that aside from the promise of land, the farmers are also holding on to the President's sincerity to empower their sentiment from tenants to "owner-cultivators" of the land.

Monsod, the assistant for Task Force Mapalad who represented the farmers in the Multi-sectoral Dialogue with Aquino, said that the farmers expect the government to comply with the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program extension with reforms (CARPER) mandate during the Aquino-Dialogue with Mr. Aquino.

Rizo Gumera Bahala Cadion, chair of Bukluhayang Alyansa ng Magbubukid ng Pilipinas (Bukalupan) in Bukidnon province expressed hope that "this assurance translates to an effective strategy in land-CARP implementation." The DAR, Cadion told the business by phone, should "make the President's words meaningful by radically improving its performance."

She added that the DAR's "lackluster performance" has resulted to only 3,571 hectares out of some 50,000 hectares of land in Bukidnon being placed under CARP coverage to date.

"On this road, it would require around 10 years to finish the program in Bukidnon," Cadion said, adding that landless peasants also have to contend with unyielding landowners' resistance to their lives in their struggle for their right to land ownership.

Rural development activist Roldan Gonzales also cautioned the President's promises as "half-hearted." The executive director of the nongovernmental group Gintong Ani, said, "The half-hearted concern for social justice speaks volumes about the kind of state and the quality of governance we have."

Danny Carranza, secretary general of the Kilusan para sa Tunay na Repormang Agraryo at Kaunlarang Pedipesan (Katarungan), a coalition of moderate peasant groups in the country industry said the President's promise was "commendable" and must be followed by the sincerity of his intention to complete his mother's 24-year-old agrarian reform program.

At the same time, Carranza said, "DAR Secretary (Virgilio de los Reyes) must be able to say that the buck stops here. The farmers cannot afford to go to the Office of the President every time they have a problem in agrarian reform implementation."

In Southern Tagalog, Joel Pingol, secretary general of the Kampuman ng mga Kasulungang Magbubukid sa Timog Katagalugan (Kasama-TK), expressed doubts on the President's promise, citing "the President has already reached" land in southern Quezon province alone.

Quezon Provincial Board Member Victor Reyes, a landlord in the Bondoc Peninsula, meanwhile lauded the President's move but stressed that land distribution must strictly comply with the agrarian reform laws particularly in providing just compensation to landowners.

The former San Narciso town mayor has some reasons as the owners of San Narciso, San Andres and Buenavista in Bondoc Peninsula that have been the subject of intense agrarian disputes in the past.

While he described Mr. Aquino's actions as "very good," Manuel Dinglasan Donadilla Caceres Jr. also warned the Chief Executive against breaking his promise to the farmers.

"We are (we) happy about (his promise) and we hope that he is sincere," Caceres said

DAR needs to distribute 961,974 hectares in 2 years

By Kristine L. Alave

AT LEAST 900,000 hectares of private landholdings are slated for acquisition and distribution in the last two years of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP), the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) said in a report.

The report by DAR Secretary Virgilio de los Reyes said that the DAR would have to complete acquiring and distributing 961,974 hectares of land from 307,630 landholdings, most of them private agricultural land.

Plagued by challenges

The report also identified several challenges that have plagued the acquisition and distribution process, among them coming up with the amount needed to buy the nearly private estates through compulsory acquisition, the lack of surveyor, the tedious verification process, uncooperative officials in agencies like the Land Registration Authority (LRA), as well as issuing out technical issues with landowners, some of whom have backed the agrarian reform program by resorting to the stock distribution option (SDO).

"It's easy to distribute land that is theirs. But the government would have to pay for those lands," De los Reyes said in an interview yesterday, referring to the P2.08 peraati or 500,000 hectares of private agricultural land covered by CARP.

Compulsory acquisition

A large portion of previous acquisitions are government-owned lands, voluntary land transfers, cases that were offer-to-sell, De los Reyes said in his report.

"These are the less tedious and less contentious to distribute. Today however, 62 percent or 596,026 hectares of the land acquisition and distribution (LAD) balance will be covered through compulsory acquisition (CA)," the report added.

The DAR also has to iron out some technical issues with landowners, including the inclusion of their private estates that the agency failed to tie from 2008-2013, and only recanted when he took over in 2013, De los Reyes said.

The report said that the Land Bank of the Philippines has released the funds for landowner compensation totaling P9.9 billion, representing 2010 and 2011 allocations. An additional P5 billion was budgeted for 2012.

63,755 beneficiaries

The DAR report said that the agency was able to give 111,889 hectares to 63,755 beneficiaries nationwide in 2011. For 2012, the DAR was given P18 billion that would cover 200,247 hectares for distribution this year and 153,000 hectares in 2013.

According to the DAR, some 4.3 million hectares of agricultural land have been distributed to almost 3.5 million beneficiaries from 1987 to December 2010.

No capacity

De los Reyes also assured farmers that "all landholdings covered by CARP would be distributed to farmer-beneficiaries before the term of President Aquino ends in 2016."

His statement was however disputed by Jun Rivera, secretary general of Agricultural Reform Alliance in Mindanao, who said that the DAR does not have the capacity to meet its target of redistributing ownership of close to a million hectares of land in four years.

That means about 240,000 hectares per year, Rivera said, adding that since 2009, the DARs average LAD performance is between 90,000 hectares to 100,000 hectares.

But De los Reyes said that the DAR is right on schedule in land acquisition and distribution despite the fact that the remaining lands to be distributed are the more contentious ones and requires a longer and more tedious process to acquire and distribute."

Landowner compensation

He explained that some 93 percent of the LAD balance involves private agricultural lands, of which 836,981 hectares would require landowner compensation. At least 186,026 hectares would be covered through compulsory acquisition, he added.

According to the DAR's calculations, the balance of land to be distributed would shrink between 203,678 hectares to 514,311 hectares in 2013. In 2014, the year when the land distribution program expires, the program's balance is between 170,778 hectares to 398,100 hectares.

DAR officials said land distribution in the past had been hampered by the lack of surveyors and the tedious verification process. Neighboring officials and potential beneficiaries also had to deal with uncooperative officials in agencies like the LRA.

Mass processing

De los Reyes said the DAR has implemented measures to fast-track the processing of these lands, including an agreement with the LRA that would allow the DAR to request the mass processing of documents required from the LRA and the relevant departments.

The DAR would also fast-track the surveys for the surveys of disputed lands, the same method used in Hacienda Luisita, by the three number of lots, the agrarian reform official added.

Legal challenges

The DAR has to grapple with legal challenges as well, including the conversion of agricultural lands and the stock distribution option. Since the 1990s, the DAR has allowed 13 plantations covering 7,780 hectares to distribute shares of stock to some 9,000 farmers under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL).

According to data from the DAR, the SDO implemented by 13 estates were not by formal process, except for two landowner, one in Iloilo and another in Negros Occidental. The two, including that of Hacienda Luisita, the biggest plantation to implement the SDO at 4,916 hectares, have been challenged at the DAR. —With reports by Ryan D. Rosario, Inquirer Mindanao

HIGIT PA SA MGA PALAKPAKAN,
HIGIT PA SA PAGHANGA,
SA BAWAT LABAN MO,
LAGI KAMING NASA LIKOD MO
Ipinagmamalaki namin ang tibay at tatag mo
bilang isang kampeon at bilang isang Pilipino.
Nakikiisa kami sa pagsuporta sa 'yo,
Manny Pacquiao
CAFÉ PURO

Coke adds fizz to Burma buzz

From page A1

Coke and World Cup ties.

The world's biggest soft-drink maker said on Thursday Burma would start enjoying its sparkling and still brands as soon as the EU government issues a license allowing American companies to make such investments.

The United States announced last month that it was suspending restrictions on American investments in the Southeast Asian country, which is still leaning toward democracy. Until last year, Burma had been led by an oppressive military junta.

Coca-Cola said its products would initially be exported from neighboring countries as it establishes local operations in Burma.

Iconic fizzy drink

Burma has not had a taste of the iconic American fizzy drink for six decades. The military seized control of the country in 1962.

The junta ceded power to a nominal civilian government last year. Despite initial cynicism about him, Thein Sein has undertaken reforms, including freeing political prisoners, opening dialogue with ethnic minorities and liberating talks with democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi, who was elected to parliament after years under house arrest.

US President Barack Obama's administration has also announced a loosening of restrictions on financial services to Burma, allowing credit cards to return.

But the United States, unlike several other countries, has not removed restrictions on imports from Burma, arguing that gems, timber and other goods provide a lucrative business for activities or interests in the army.

"Coca-Cola Co. has always stood for optimism at times of change and progress around the world," chair and chief executive officer Muhtar Kent said in a statement.

Coca-Cola said that it would abide by ethical standards, including respecting human rights and not paying bribes.

Market leader

The company notes that it has a history of being among the first to enter emerging markets.

In 1949, for instance, Coca-Cola and other foreign companies were expelled from China by the communist government. After full diplomatic relations were established with the country in 1979, Coca-Cola had 20,000 cases of its flagship drink delivered by train into the southern town of Hong Kong, which was still a British territory at the time.

The Atlanta-based company also exited Bad Cuba was one of the first countries where it did business, opening operations in the nation in 1906. But after the Cuban revolution, Fidel Castro's government began seizing private assets and the company liquidated and exited the country in 1960. The company has never operated in North Korea.

Coca-Cola products in those countries are obtained through independent third parties.

As part of its push in Burma, Coca-Cola said it was donating $5 million to support job creation for women in the country. The company will work with PACT, a nongovernmental group that supports economic and health initiatives in developing nations.

It said it expected to make "significant investments" in Burma over the next three to five years.

Coca-Cola first entered Burma in 1927. AP and AFP

BURMA SPRING Burmese Foreign Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin (left) and Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario pose prior to their luncheon meeting on Friday in Makati City. A Malacañang statement said the meeting covered a wide range of topics such as political cooperation, trade and investment, agriculture, tourism and even human rights.

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Facebook complicates . . .

From page A1

from somebody else who read it on their book that my son just got married,' or, 'My daughter just had a child, and I didn't even know she was pregnant,'" said Joshua Coleman, a psychologist in the Bay Area who wrote a book about estrangement, "When Parents Hurt."

"There are things that parents assume all their lives they'd be there for, then they hear in a very public third hand way about it, and it adds a layer of hurt and humiliation," he said.

Worse than death

No data exist on the number of family estrangements nationwide, but experts generally agree that family rifts—between parents and children or siblings—can lead to depression, marital strife, addiction and even suicide.

Nina Shelby, director of support group hosting Estranged Relationships, said estrangement has its own unique grief.

"This is almost worse than death, because when they are estranged from you, they aren't gone," said Shelby, 67, whose daughter refused to speak to her for four years. It's like finally most people intervened for this article who are estranged from their parents or children did not want their full names used.)

Out in the cold

A woman named Mary of Florida, has endured two long stretches when her daughter has stopped speaking to her. The first, starting in 1997, was brief-breaking, but she said it was not as agonizing as their current 16-month stalemate.

"I didn't know all those months and years what she was doing," Mary said, adding that her daughter cut her off because she disapproved of her boyfriend. "It was easier because there were no confrontations."

In 2005, they reconciled for six years, but the daughter, who is now married to that boyfriend and has a young child, again stopped speaking to her 18 months ago for reasons Mary does not understand. Mary, who joined Facebook in 2008 to stay updated, often checks her page.

"You're watching other people enjoying your daughter and the grandchild you're supposed to have, and you're left out in the cold," Mary said. "I have to watch pictures of my grandsons on my daughter's nieces in-law's page."

Disowned by son

There still, also plays out in front of relatives and friends, in a humiliating way. When Mary's 21-year-old son took his sister's side, he not only removed her from his friends list but also demoted her on Facebook. "It was a blank little phone where his face used to be on my profile," she said.

Some parents said they could not help but check up on their estranged children online, searching for clues to unlock the mystery of why they had been cut off. If a parent's estranged child has "blocked" them on Facebook, they might send a "friend" request to their child's acquaintances, follow them on Twitter or do Internet searches to find out where their grandchildren attend school.

"This is a common question on my website—whether it's more painful to sneak views on Facebook or not, or just to stay away altogether," said Elizabeth Wagmeister, a documentary filmmaker who runs an online discussion forum for parents with estranged children—currently with more than 2,200 members—as estrangements rise even.

She went through months of silence with her mother over a thread, and he has two more estranged sons of her own. "I now live with knowing exactly how I made my mother feel," Wagmeister said.

But those who hope to reconcile, she says, time alienating can backfire if it is perceived as nagging, said Monica McGoldrick, a family therapist. For a mother, she said: "If over three years a day where she and her daughter get to have a conversation, what is she going to say?"

People who use social media are often aware that their estranged relatives are watching. A decade ago, Jessica, a 27-year-old New York resident who works for a marketing company, stopped talking with her father, an alcoholic, after much turmoil.

She sends Twitter messages for work and for fun, and knows through other relatives that her father is keeping up with her—her organ dirt, her travel schedule, her social life. It angers her, even though she acknowledges anyone can see her posts.

"I didn't want him to be telling extended family that stuff he was learning online about me because 140 characters don't tell the whole story," she said.

Facebook request denied

Armed with details, he had estrangement have chose he was to his daughter to his mother with whom Jessica talks often.

"That's been a frustration," she said. "That's when I made it how to use the digital space is."

After reconnecting with her biological father in 2008, Lori, an adoptee in New York, grew increasingly concerned and then alarmed by the aggressive tone of his e-mails, to which he accused her of disrespect and not staying in touch.

She ultimately decided to end all contact in 2009, she blocked his phone calls and e-mails, denied her father's Facebook request and dropped his name as a Facebook friend.

Lori, 37, still agonizes about the decision. "I have a lot of guilt about breaking up," she said, her added, "I don't owe it to him to stay his parental daughter."

Swiping from afar

Sometimes people use social media to snipe at one another from afar.

Ruth Sabol, a New York psychotherapist who wrote "Dealing With Family Rifts," said a client's son had posted details on Facebook this month about their falling-out. Indeed has also counseled a bickering couple whose nasty Facebook postings are calculated to annoy the husband's estranged mother. Their online grievous, he said, is "is durable."

Others, estrangement does not cover just one relationship, but leaves relatives to choose sides, leading to other rifts—for instance, birthday cards sent by a grandparent might never be passed on to grandchildren.

Last little thread

In this context, social media offer hope that estrangements are not necessarily here to have a ripple effect.

"Say your sibling doesn't talk to you, but has grown children; you can 'friend' them on the Internet," McGoldrick said. Her philosophy: "Even if somebody chooses not to have a relationship with me, no one has a right to tell me (whom) I can't have a relationship with."

Gabriel, whose parents met him still in 2005, is skeptical. "I don't think Facebook helps heal family relationships," he said. "It just adds a new dimension of gossip, intimacy and remorse."

One possible solution is to simply close Facebook accounts to avoid the pain. But that is hard to do in practice.

"It seems me to close it down," said Mary, whose heart sank when she watched a video of her grandsons and heard him giggling.

"In a weird way, I feel I can make some sort of connection even if it's through a glass screen or a laptop screen," she added. "I know it's not real, but it's my last little thread that I'm holding on to." New York Times News Service

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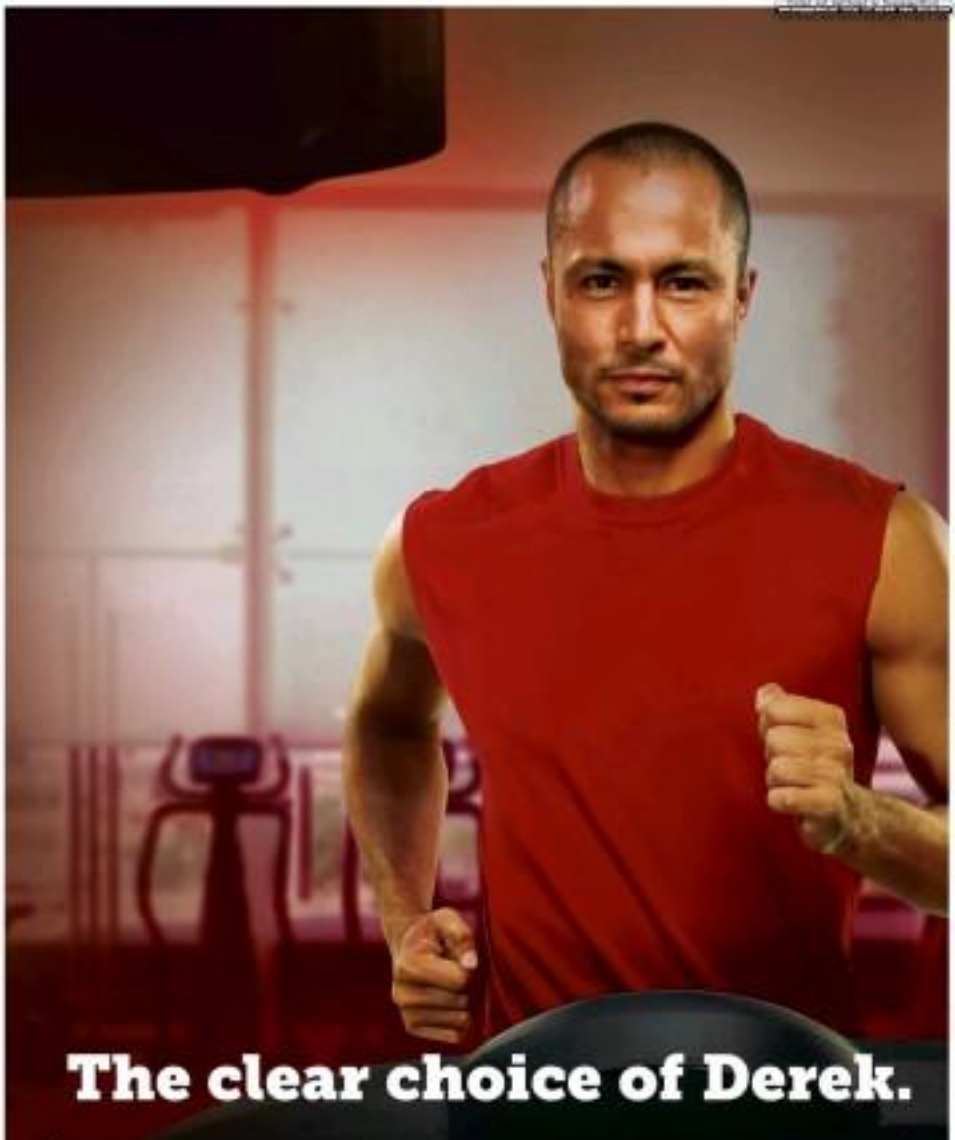

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Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

Across the NATION

SBMA asks P-Noy to relocate coal plant

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—Top officials of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) have asked President Aquino to relocate the 600-megawatt coal-fired power plant project of an energy consortium out of Subic due to the potential danger it poses on the freeport and mounting opposition from stakeholders of the economic zone.

"This is the official position of the board [that was arrived at on May 11, which I have communicated to the President, and RP Energy Inc., a consortium of energy companies Aboitiz Power, Manila Electric Co. and Taiwan Cogen Corp.]," said SBMA Chairman Roberto Garcia in an interview.

Malacañang has yet to respond to the SBMA position.

"There is no influence [from President Aquino that he has decided on the proposed Subic plant's fate]. But in a recent meeting with [Energy] Secretary Jose Rene Almendras[,] I told him [about SBMA's position]," Garcia said.

In a 2011 energy forum in Baguio City, Almendras described the Subic project as a new facility that would contain Luzon's power supply in the near future.

In an interview, Garcia said: "Its economy, because of the environmental opposition in the coal plant, we have requested the President to relocate [the facility] somewhere else ... because, for obvious reasons, major tourism projects will be disregarded. [The solar and aforementioned] Subic will be disregarded. [Besides,] there are many other places [for RP Energy] ... can locate the next plant, or why here?"

Garcia said the abandoned Taiwan coal-fire power plant is a good alternative site for the RP Energy coal-fired plant. "[The government] has infrastructure there. Four hundred hectares [are] developed. [RP Energy] has to do is build the amy," he said.

In his May 2 letter to SP Energy chair Oscar Hoyos, Garcia said "locating the coal plant in [Subic's] unique forest and coastal environment ... would adversely compromise the freeport's significant economic potential."

"There are many other places to locate this coal plant. There is only one Subic Bay," he said.

In a report that SBMA submitted to Malacañang, the agency said the project was rejected by freeport stakeholders in a 2011 social acceptability process.

About 125 representatives of the area's local governments, the zone's business and tourism boosters, freeport residents, landowners, including the Ayta indigenous communities, and freeport workers took part in the consultation process from Dec. 7 to 9.

RP Energy however, did not join the consultations.

In a statement to the trade outlet, Raymond Cunningham, first vice president for business development of Aboitiz Power and member of RP Energy's steering committee, said: "If we are convinced that the overwhelming majority of people in that area do not want the project, we would go away."

Garcia acknowledged the need to improve power supply. But he said, "[w]e don't need [to build the coal plant] here in Subic. If that happens, then we might need to rethink major tourism projects for the freeport."

He said SBMA has reservations about allowing RP Energy to proceed with the coal plant project because of "the highly disadvantageous contract that they have [with the SBMA]."

"Anybody that [talks] to, when I tell them RP Energy will only be paying P1 million to SBMA every year, [they] say [something] 'That's outrageous,'" Garcia said.

"RP Energy cannot hold out in that contract. I will not allow it," he added.

Should Malacañang decide to keep the RP Energy project in Subic, however, Garcia said SBMA was "willing to defer to the Office of the President with four or five conditions."

These conditions were outlined in a June 7 letter to the newly formed Subic Bay Chamber for Health and Environment, he said.

He said RP Energy and the government should adhere to stringent standards to be set by SBMA based on World Health Organization requirements and that they should acquire the certification of an independent engineer regarding the viability of ash ponds that could withstand climate change and geological calamities.

The coal-fired project must also "[c]omply with [another] agreement, competent for the public health costs of communities near the plant, and integrate a working greenhouse gas emission reduction program, he said.

On June 5, members of the Zambales Electric Cooperative petitioned the then Energy Secretary Cerge to compel SBMA that issuing permits to RP Energy arguing that the consortium had abandoned its plan to provide the province with cheap electricity. Robert Gamaga, *Inquirer Central Luzon*

Shanties up for demolition for Manila Bay cleanup

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—The Department of Public Works and Highways is demolishing 654 shanties built along the dikes of the mouth of Manila Bay to Navotas and Pedro Gil streets starting June 18 to ease floods and clear waterways there, an official said.

Antonio Molano Jr., DPWH director in Central Luzon, said that the demolition are 80 houses in Muzon-ite town and 562 houses in Manuela-ite, both in Pampanga, and 12 houses in Dagupan-ense in Bulacan.

Molano said the agency scheduled the demolition after the families received their third notice in May and consultations with village leaders, mayors and representatives of the Commission on Human Rights, Department of the Interior and Local Government, and Presidential Commission for the Urban Poor were finished.

Little resistance was expected because the DPWH went through the process, he said.

The families were not affected most because they had been relocated during the implementation of the Pampanga Delta development project, which widened the mouth of the Manila Bay to 750 meters.

Molano said the removal of illegal structures complies with the order of the Supreme Court to various agencies in 2008 to clean the Manila Bay.

He said the DPWH had also deployed four dredgers to remove silt at the delta to hasten the flow of floodwater toward the bay. The DPWH and local governments would save money illegally built fish pens and ponds, he said.

A DPWH inventory also showed that 733 structures encroach on several waterways in Western Bulacan province.

Region-wide, the agency identified 5,807 houses, restaurants and fish pens on waterways, which were seen to have slowed down the draining of floodwater trig. gered by strong rains dumped by Typhoons "Feiling" and "Gorio" last year. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

HINULAWAN FESTIVAL
Members of the contingent from Cateel-at in College of Tekdo City in Cebu province wrap for joy after winning the Hinulawan festival showdown on June 12. Tekdo used to be called Hinulawan for its rich gold and other mineral resources. Hinulawan is also a contraction of ere Cebuano words "hinagung kalawin" or hard-earned gold.

22 persons watched after teen dies of meningo

By Mar S. Arguelles and Rey M. Nazal
Inquirer Southern Luzon

LUCBAN CITY—Health authorities here are closely watching at least 22 persons they wanted to have come in contact with the 17-year-old female patient confirmed to have died Wednesday of meningococcemia in a hospital in Tabaco City, Albay.

Dr. Iole Monasterio, chief of the Provincial Health Office (PHO), on Friday said that based on their contact-tracing measure, they found 15 persons in Tabaco City and 11 persons in Batan town, both in Albay, to have been in contact with the female patient.

He said the PHO's health surveillance team immediately gave the 22 people chemoprophylaxis, a drug to prevent the disease.

Monasterio confirmed that the female victim was "clinically ill-fected" with meningococcemia based on her symptoms, which included fever and rashes.

He said that after her death, she was placed in a body bag and in a sealed casket before being buried so the same day to the public cemetery in Tabaco City.

The victim's burial was done by supervised by the city sanitary inspector and other health officials, he said.

Immediate burial was necessary to prevent the spread of the disease, meningococcemia being a highly contagious disease that can be transmitted through respiratory droplets.

Monasterio said the girl's father arrived from Manbaie, her home province, on the day she died but he was prevented from seeing her body prior to her burial to prevent contamination.

Monasterio said the victim was a native of Antoniy, a raining town in Manbaie, but was staying at a boarding house in Bantayan Mangkaol in Tabaco City at the time studying at the third trimester-campus there.

Before the June 12 opening of classes, the victim stayed with her aunt Rosita Jaime (Lot 11 in Barangay Villahermosa, Daraga town, and went to Tabaco City on June 11 and stayed at her boarding house.

Dr. Nathaniel Bengallo, assistant provincial health chief, said they have yet to determine where the victim got the disease.

He added that the 22 persons found to contact with the victim were told to be on self-observation by a period of one week and to immediately alert health authorities should they manifest body pains and rashes.

He stressed that there was no need to spend extra for 22 persons as the drug given to them was a "100-percent guarantee" that they would not get the deadly disease.

Bengallo said that so far, the 22 have not shown any symptoms of the disease but they were advised to refrain from going around their respective communities or in any public place while they are under observation. *Inquirer Southern Luzon*

The Department of Health has described meningococcemia as an acute and potentially life-threatening infection of the bloodstream caused by a bacteria called Neisseria meningitidis.

The bacteria frequently lives in a person's upper respiratory tract without causing visible signs of illness. The bacteria is airborne, it can be spread from person to person through respiratory droplets.

Family members and those closely exposed to someone with the condition are advised to take.

Symptoms may include fever, rashes, headache, anxiety, vomiting muscle pain and nausea. Later symptoms may include changing level of consciousness and large areas of bleeding under the skin.

Local pork traders seek TRO vs EO 5

DAGUPAN CITY—A group of hog owners is seeking a temporary restraining order from the Supreme Court against the Department of Agriculture to stop it from enforcing Executive Order No. 5, which prohibits dealers from selling meat if the producers are right bones slid after the animal is slaughtered.

Ruenaldo Sa, Alamo said pan, the chair and director of the Swine Development Council, said the Samahang Mulang Inasnan Cooperative of Umingan town has drawn up a petition that seeks to lessen the direction, which, it noted, would only benefit meat importers and smugglers.

"We were surprised by the issuance of the executive order which a unilateral interest and [which] favors the farmers of other countries. [The directive] did not consider the practices of slaughterhouses in the Philippines. The government should protect the local industry," Sa told a news briefing.

He said no consultation was made before the issuance of EO 5 in January.

He said the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) should instead improve the system of slaughtering animals before tightening controls on the handling of meat.

Regulation

"For instance, in Alfonso town, animals are usually slaughtered from 11 p.m. to midnight. From this notion that the owner would no longer be sold after 8 a.m. and sell be confiscated?" he said.

Citing NMIS records, he said there are only 200 slaughterhouses in the country.

He said the government's attempt to regulate the transport of meat products sourced from other countries.

"Meat [some meat products sold in the country are] smuggled, we do not know how long the meat have been kept before they were brought to the Philippines," he said.

He said some areas in the United States allow pigs slaughtered before winter to be frozen and stored for months. "Now we don't know if the meats that were not sold for 90 days are the ones sold in the Philippines," he said.

He said frozen meat products are not harmful to the consumers, particularly in facilities that have no freezers. He said deboned and unsold meats are again put on display the following day.

"We asked the vendors and those who deliver the meat where they source their products, and they won't tell us, which most probably means that these were smuggled," he said. Yolanda Sorda, *Inquirer Northern Luzon*

Raids on houses of Ecija mayor, allies yield firearm cache

CABANATUAN CITY—Police on Monday recovered at least 15 firearms and bullets from the houses of Mayor Aurea Salonga of San Antonio town, Nueva Ecija province, and his supporters when they searched them on the strength of search-issued warrants.

The teams, led by the Philippine National Police Intelligence Group, were pursuing leads that showed that Salonga and his supporters had violated Republic Act No. 10294 (the law governing illegal gun possession), said Senior Insp. Carlito Lopez, San Antonio police chief.

But Lopez said all firearms recovered by the police were registered and licensed.

The raiding team seized an AR-47 automatic rifle, two shotguns, a baby Armalite, six .45 cal. pistols, a .357 cal. gun, two .22 cal. guns, a 9 mm pistol and a Colt 5-mode rifle. They also recovered bullets for handguns and rifles.

Salonga last year said that he is allowed were illegal and allocate searches on his and his supporters' houses. He said the Philippine flag in the town hall had been displayed at half mast since Tuesday to protest the raids.

"It is unfortunate that while all the Philippine flags were waving proud on Independence Day, it's at half mast here," he said on Thursday. "How can we claim freedom here now?"

Salonga said that the guns seized from his house were covered by proper documents. He said three guns were licensed under his name while the two others were licensed under the town government and being used by local government security personnel.

He said at least 200 policemen conducted the searches.

The search team, led by Senior Supt. Allen Bantolo of the PNP01 in Metro Manila, was composed of members of the Criminal Investigation and Detection Team, the PNP Special Action Force, the PNP Regional Mobile Group in Central Luzon and the Nueva Ecija police.

Lopez said the team did not exercise the raid with his cohorts in the town government.

He said the policemen searched Salonga's house in Barangay Poblacion, as well as the houses of Bedrosa Gaspio, Elpidio Sicat, Joseph Gutiez, Sanctino Miranda, Hero Hernon Sencia and Boy Juliano, the mayor's supporters.

Lopez said Salonga and the six men were not in their houses when the police conducted the searches. The seized guns were taken to the Central Luzon police headquarters in Pampanga province. *Armand Nadong, Inquirer Central Luzon*

INQUIRER Visayas

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Editor Jun Bandayrel
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Museum keeps KKK flag

By Clarissa Uriat
Cebu City

THE CELEBRATION of Independence Day on Tuesday took a deeper meaning than a no-work, no-class holiday for Arnel Garcia, a sophomore accounting student of the University of Southern Philippines Foundation (USPF) in Cebu City.

Garcia has learned that his school is the home of the 116-year-old flag of the KKK, or the Kataas-taasan Kagalang-galangang Katipunan, ng mga mga Anak ng Bayan (Highest and Most Honorable Society of the Sons of the Nation), the armed revolutionary movement of 19th century against Spanish and American colonial rule.

"It is a great honor that the KKK flag is in our university. It definitely has an effect on our understanding of independence that because it is a symbol of value 19th century are used. It will help inculcate in the minds of the students the essence of freedom," he said.

Rizalista Museum

The KKK flag is being preserved at the privately owned Rizalista Museum inside the USPF Mabini campus in downtown Cebu City.

It has traces of blood, which, according to Alvin Zamora, the museum, indicates that it was used while the Katipuneros battled the Spaniards.

"The flag is a witness to the physical struggles of the Katipuneros," Zamora said.

For about 80 years, the fading cloth of history has been kept at USPF. On May 25, it was publicly displayed for the first time in recent years during the Gabii sa Kasaysayan: Pagbit of Heritage), as with among the 22 featured museums and heritage sites.

Started in 2007, the GSK is a yearly undertaking of Ramon Aboitiz Foundation Inc. to encourage the public to visit museums and respect them as venues for cultural understanding.

According to Zamora, the one-night public exposure of the flag has achieved its objective of making the Cebuanos aware that it raises and is not just a metaphoric symbol of the Katipuneros' struggle.

The people should be made aware of the KKK flag since it is the only one existing in the country, he said.

Traces of blood

Labeled as the "Original KKK Flag 1896," the historical piece was mentioned in a book authored by Artemio Ocampo, titled "The Tragedy of the Revolution." The book is about the life and death of Andres Bonifacio, founder of the Katipunan and father of the Philippine revolution.

According to Ocampo, the KKK flag was unfurled during the Philippine revolution against the Spanish regime and contains all the elements of the different Katipunan flags.

Bonifacio in order to know an ancient Tagalog script for KKK or the senate of a multilayered sun. The words "Lahi ng Katipunan" are printed above the sun.

Also on the flag are the letters "KKK-MMM," an abbreviation of the full name of the Katipunan.

The flag was given to the family of the national hero, Dr. Jose Rizal, after he was executed in 1896, Zamora said.

Trinidad's donations

Rizal was considered an honorary member of the KKK. Many of his personal belongings were given to his sisters, Lucia and Trinidad.

When Trinidad went to Cebu on Feb. 11, 1954, she gave the flag and some items of Rizal's memorabilia to her grandsisters and Lucia's granddaughter, Concepcion Sinforosa. At that time, Sinforosa was married to Simplicio Duterte, the second vice president of USPF and nephew of the late national's founders, Benigno Duterte Aboitiz and her husband, Augustin Aboitiz.

It was not surprising that when the USPF owners decided to put up a museum on its campus to Dumaguete Mabini in the 1970s, they turned it after the national hero's memorabilia in the country.

Another museum branch was put up on the USPF campus in Barangay Labog, also in Cebu City.

The Rizalista has the original letters of Josephine Bracken to Rizal and the collection of 1899 and 1900 editions of his classic books, "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo." It also showcases Rizal's shrunken winter coat, pants, overcoat and other personal belongings.

Public display

Some of the items have been given for safekeeping to the National Museum in Manila. These include the lamp used by Rizal when he wrote his last poem, "Mi Ultimo Adios," inside his fort Santiago cell.

In the 1900s, the framed KKK flag was displayed at the Rizalista Museum in USPF-Labog. But museum officials took it down in 1997 after Wendy Smith of the National Museum of Australia observed that it was not a proper way of preserving the flag. Smith advised them to preserve the flag in a glass casing.

When Zamora was appointed curator in October last year, he suggested to Lourdes Aveza, museum director and USPF vice president for external affairs, to highlight the flag during the GSK on May 25 as it could be used as "crowd for restoration and preservation advocacy. Cebuanos."

"We have to feature this (flag) because we are the only institution that has this flag in the Philippines and has considered it one of the best features of the museum," he said.

The recommendation was approved and the flag had a one-night only public display.

Zamora said visitors could still see the flag upon request. They must have prior booking and their number must be at least 15.

The museum charges P25 per adult and P15 per child. A USPF student gets in for free.

According to Jesus Charles Bagaso of the USPF College of Arts and Sciences, the KKK flag brings students closer to the time when their ancestors heroically stood for the cause of freedom.

"The flag showcases the bravery and determination of our heroes and because there is blood on that flag, it reminds the students that Filipinos are willing to fight for what they aspire for. It may be a flag but it shows who Filipinos really are," he said.

CURATOR Alvin Zamora of the Rizalista Museum unfurls the KKK flag that has been with the University of Southern Philippines Foundation since 1981. The flag has splotches of blood and is the only one existing in the country. INQUIRER VISAYAS/CLARISSA URIAT

A COLLECTION of underground items owned by Dr. Jose Rizal is displayed on the private museum inside the University of Southern Philippines Foundation Mabini campus in downtown Cebu City.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

OPINION

Infection in poll system

JOSEPH ESTRADA has a piece of advice for Sen. Aquilino "Koko" Pimentel III, who has refused to run with Juan Miguel Zubiri in the former president's United Nationalist Alliance senatorial ticket in 2013: "Give and forgive in order to be happy."

Never mind that forgiveness presupposes contrition on the wrongdoer's part. Pimentel is loath to share the stage with Zubiri because he was the principal victim of "dagdag-bawas" (vote-padding and -shaving) in Central Mindanao in the 2007 elections that gave Zubiri a seat in the Senate. Zubiri secured that seat in favor of Pimentel last year, only after former Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan, followed by former Maguindanao election supervisor Lintang Bedol, corroborated the claim that the 2007 polls were rigged allegedly on orders of then President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and her husband to favor the administration's riders, under which Zubiri ran.

But while Zubiri did give up his Senate seat, he never admitted wrongdoing. "I quit but I am no cheat," he said, and even then declared that he would run again in the 2013 senatorial race "to seek a fresh mandate." He was resigning from his position "with honor and dignity ... without admitting any fault and with my vehement denial of the alleged electoral fraud hurled against me." In his mind, quitting without apologizing made him a star profile in courage—or, in the odd formulation of his wife, "Pinatunayan niyang sa atyang tanay na lalaki (He proved himself to be a real man)"—and therefore deserving of continued political viability.

With Zubiri having disclaimed any responsibility for the injury he had caused Pimentel—and, by extension, the electoral process—what, then, is he to be forgiven for? Yes to Estrada, such moral nuances are all a passing concern. As he sees it, Pimentel's moral action lies from a genuinely principled opposition to election fraud as from pique and wounded pride—nothing that his, Estrada's, legendary skill for political bonhomie couldn't paper over. Thus, for Pimentel to keep to his stand against the dishonorary Zubiri represents and apparently benefited from is, in Estrada's view, a peculiar display of arrogance: "Nasa-sa yabang, eh. Akala nila sila-lang ang righteous."

There, in a nutshell, is why the public should look askance at this meanest political alliance Estrada's Pwersa ng Masang Pilipino has forged with Vice President Jejomar Binay's PDP-Laban. It is obvious that UNA has no space for virtues such as integrity, propriety or delicadeza in its platform. What it welcomes is political expediency—the kind of ethically unhindered accommodation that demands, if need be, the emasculation of the very heart of what a candidate believes to be right and worth fighting for.

Pimentel under UNA, as Inquirer columnist Randy David had pointed out, "will make it difficult for him to explain why he is running with people who represent the very antithesis of what he stands for." But for Estrada, it only boils down to "yabang."

These, too, lies the stark infection in the electoral system apart from the systemic and widespread cheating that happens every poll date. Zubiri can insist on a veneer of innocence only because the Senate Electoral Tribunal has not ruled with finality on who actually won between him and Pimentel. Zubiri's resignation rendered the protracted recount moot, but left the ultimate question of accountability hanging—again. Pursuing redress against election fraud is a staggeringly slow, inquisitive, and extremely time-consuming process in this country, and long has the body politic suffered for it.

Note that Pimentel's father himself, who coined the term "dagdag-bawas" in 1995 in protest against the "colossal cheating" that, he said, deprived him of a Senate seat in favor of now Senator President Jose Prospero Enrile, also never had the satisfaction of a final ruling on his petition. The SET dismissed the elder Pimentel's suit, but only on the ground that his victory in the 1998 senatorial elections had nullified his protest.

There's also Roxas vs. Binay, still ongoing more than two years after the last elections, along with God knows how many other disputes on the local level. Clearly, the electoral system needs overhaul, and that should include the means by which competing claims are adjudicated—ideally in a fair, fast, transparent manner. Otherwise, disgraced politicians will keep circumventing the mandate of the ballot, in the style of repeated betrayals of it.

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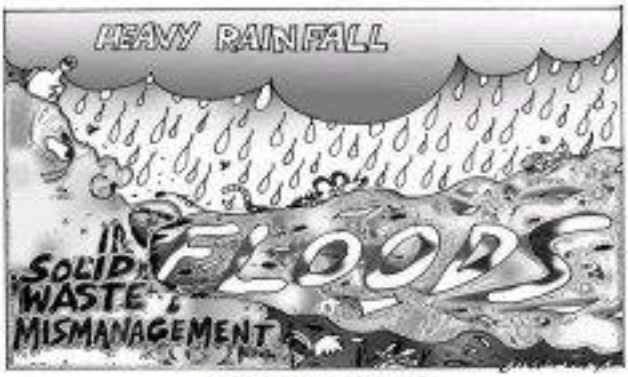
EDITORIAL



Beyond headlines

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

CRITICAL ISSUES can be blotted out by the day's headlines. These include scenarios of "we were robbed" in the Peoples-Smalley fight to fallout from the impeachment of the then Chief Justice. Here are some issues:

The UN Conference on Sustainable Development, or "Rio+20," will soon start in Brazil. Look beyond the over 50,000 delegates. The core agenda is the future of our grandchildren, on an earth buckling from ecological strain.

Food demand will double in 40 years. Limited cash put resources to produce "fuel from water in deserts, are crumbling while poverty festers. Failure of the 2009 climate summit in Copenhagen lingers.

Before Rio+20 opens, run significant reports were published: "A Review of Evidences," by the Journal Nature, and "5th Global Food Protected Outlook," by the US Environmental Programme (Unep).

Earth may be on the way to an irreversible "tipping point," writes Anthony Barnosky from the University of California in Nature. "It really will be a new world, biologically, at that point."

Unep says "incremental progress was made in only four of 90 critical ecosystems making gasoline lead-free, easing ozone layer depletion, broadened access to clean water and banned operations pollutant research.

Over 1,000 species have achieved up to 45 years, including protected habitats for plants and animals. In 24, there was "little or no progress." "Clean destinations" were marked in eight, among them continue work. Less than 5 percent of Philippine reefs remain in "pristine conditions."

Such results are "far from what we have hoped for," because fishing areas, the quantity of marine organisms dipped by 90 percent. *Time* magazine named *Supreme Primates* as one of 100 world environment heroes for trying to transmit the 30 hectares per day loss of rainforests. (Thailand loses 160/hectares daily.)

"A most lenient viewpoint is chaos," Wilfred Jenner, acting Chief Justice Antonio Carpio observed that long hidden tensions, conflicts financial reports be posted on the tribunal's website.

"Well stated is half done."

Look South. For the first time in decades, we have a banner than ever chance to clean up politics' worst: foes in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao.

With the suspension of various citizen groups, the Commission on Elections is gearing up for a 10-day general registration in the region on July 9-18. "One Person, One Registration; One Vote" is the theme.

The Comelec on June 6 shredded the book of excuses for 'all of ARMM' through Resolution No. 9443. This was in response to a call by President Aquino to "exercise" ghost voters. Amnesties provided solid data for this threat.

ARMM claims that its population soared 5.4 percent, nearly three double the national average. "Is this statistically possible?" Asian Development Bank statistician Ordinez Salngon-Ong asked equally skeptical fellow scientists at the Philippine Population Conference.

Of course not. But this "impossibility" pushed up Lanao del Sur's voting population by a staggering 30 percent. The number of voters in Tubi leaped by 52 percent; in Tamparan by 11 percent, and in Bacolan by 8 percent. Magindanao crept past the field by claiming 39 percent. "Ghost Sinsangyan" are one result, as in Lanao del Sur. "Yes, it has voters' lists and precincts," Namfrel's Eric Alvarez said.

From the President down to Abdul, there is talk of ghost schools, ghost teachers, ghost students, ghost provinces, and "padak" certificates of canvass in ARMM, says Fr. Eliseo Mercado of the Institute for Autonomy and Governance.

Besides, there is consensus on making honest elections the cornerstone of ARMM reforms, posthe Oktan joined. The new technology of biometrics will be used to ensure honest polls. If this succeeds, it'll be a fitting legacy for Wise and installed Sr. Cotbatela lord by Gen. Major Guimaras.

There, we predict, will be 5,700-character rapfor Chin citizens. And we're not even touched China: the "Old Dragon With Iron Teeth."

• • •

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Left holding the bag

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

TWO INCIDENTS hunted down this week—one by the Sandiganbayan (SB) on the Lucio Tan case (CSB Code 0860) and the other by the Supreme Court on the Commission on Elections-smartmatic case—have very serious negative implications for the Filipino people. And, if the Sandiganbayan or these are accurate, they are liable as well.

In the Tan case, the SB said it had to acquit because there was lack of evidence. I find that the height of irony. First, the SB rejects the government's evidence, given the testimony of Bureau of Internal Revenue officials that Tan corporations paid only 10 percent of the Tan enterprises, rejects the testimony of Marcos' financial counselor to the same effect, rejects the documentary evidence showing how Marcos financial consultant received P170 million in commissions, and finds there is lack of evidence. Dear God.

The SB has done Chief Justice Corona one other favor: It dismissed an ironclad case—literally a mountain of evidence gathered by Hoth Mendoza—against Delilah Wong's Major Electric Group (also for benefits-from-evidence). The Binay case never got beyond words.

Since I have already written to another newspaper about the Tan decision, I invite the Reader to google it, and other columns I have written on the same subject. As you accept the fact that because of the Filipino people have been robbed of an estimated P200 billion (or more) if the decision is not reversed.

The rest of this column deals with the Supreme Court's Comelec-Smartmatic decision, which is still not available on the SC Internet's website. As of this writing, the last SC latest uploads are the April decisions—although a decision is supposed to be uploaded very soon after its promulgation. So I have to rely on the news reports.

Under a unanimous decision, the Comelec (MOA), I am one of the plaintiffs in the case. And here I invite the Reader to go to the MOA website to read the documents that led it to support the case against Comelec-Smartmatic. Because of my participation in the case, I forbade myself from writing about it till the polls (Sept) while it was pending. Like so many, because I feel that we, as the PCOS machines for the 2013 elections, there is a window for me to write about it.

President Aquino apparently had no such twinges of conscience and/or delicadeza; he spoke freely about the case before the high court's decision was handed down and even explained the Comelec's objections to deciding it—which is fine for the man on the street, but certainly not for the President, particularly one who is perceived to use every power at his command to remove a rival justice.

Even more unfortunately, which caused a great deal of both gloating on his side, he got the issue wrong. To hammer at him, he isn't the only one, because there was precisely the media spin given out by Comelec-Smartmatic on the matter—which he (and others) seems to have swallowed hook, line and sinker.

P-Noy seems to think that the issue is between automation and manual counting, as he said it, between the PCOS (precinct count optical scan) machines and the manual system. And the reason down in favor of PCOS machines is because they are "precise, reliable" (a direct quote from the President's speech) and are "vulnerable" to manipulation by corrupt politicians and their supporters. White and black.

Excuse me, Mr. President. We are all for automation. But automation done with the proper safeguards. Because without them, high-tech cheating can and does occur—as our information technology (IT) community has pointed out time and again. The issue before the Supreme Court was never between PCOS vs. manual, although that was the (false) belief. Some Smartmatic spin. I guess the high court swallowed it, hook—the false line that if the contract is not upheld, the Comelec would have to go manual because there would be no more time). The issue was between the PCOS machines and the Comelec-Smartmatic and other PCOS machines. There are other legal issues—e.g., whether the Comelec should have bid out the contract for new PCOS machines, or whether its option to purchase Smartmatic's PCOS machines could still be exercised (as the Comelec has argued).

Almost the entire IT community, and many groups that monitored the 2010 elections, reported that the Smartmatic PCOS machines were flawed (more than 200 defects), and therefore particularly vulnerable to cheating. Lack of the safeguards mandated by law. That's why they are against Smartmatic. And there was no "proven credibility" because the Random Manual Audit that "validated" the poll results was a sick joke of a study.

Hence, the Supreme Court declared that the Comelec-Smartmatic option-to-purchase contract was still valid (that no deed for bidding). Why? Because of something I never heard of before: that the Comelec had not yet returned its financial guarantee, the performance security bond it posted with the contract.

But isn't the fact that the Comelec had not yet returned the performance bond clear and convincing evidence that either Smartmatic had not performed as expected or failed to deliver the equipment on schedule? Its why this Reader has been urging P-Noy to threaten the Comelec from treachery to the Comelec saying that the latter's option to purchase had lapsed.

Again, the irony. Clearly, Smartmatic did not perform as expected, and yet, due to the excuse grabbed by the high court to say the contract was still in effect.

Which leaves Filipinos holding the bag—PCOS machines that are flawed and therefore vulnerable to high-tech cheating, for those.

Steady on course

SOCIAL CLIMATE

Mahar Mangahas

SWS did a rapid poll in Metro Manila at the end of August 1987, and patiently briefed President Cory about it. (It was commissioned by Carlos Conde.) Unemployed, her secretary of social welfare Lydia Leong told me that the survey results done and they were more satisfied by her because she had debated the coup attempt, she modestly commented: "Really? And I thought the people didn't like me anymore."

Cory's worst unemployment rate +14 in February 1986, but kept it gradually fell again. Her lowest level was +7, notched twice, first in November 1986 and then in April 1991 a) after term was ending, for scores between +9 and -9, which are not significantly different from zero, SWS says the term "neutral".

FIDEL'S Ratings. 1992-98. In opinion polls history, the best answer to the presidency thus far has been Fidel Ramos, who scored no less than +69 through out his first two and a half years, up to late 1994. Then he bleeds (-9) by mid to +26, dividends due to the Fist Correspondent tragedy (SWS uses the term "misfortune" for the range of +30 to +29).

FIDEL'S score dropped even further to a low +1 in October 1995, at the peak of the one peso cut era—the government had made the mistake, early in 1995, of not conducting any rice imports, so as to create "self-sufficiency" in the campaign leading to the May 1995 elections.

FIDEL'S score turned further downward to a very good +30 by April 1997, then tapered off gradually, before finishing at a moderate +19 in April 1998, making him also the best finisher in the run-up to Erap.

Joseph "Erap" Estrada, 1998-2001. Erap

dent Erap Estrada had very good ratings, a) in the +40s, in his first four quarters, but in his fifth quarter he dropped to a moderate +16 (October 1999). From then on, his net ratings were either moderate or neutral, but never less than +3.

Erap ended with a +8 in December 2000, after his impeachment trial had started. 1993 had no rating but here in January 2001, the month when he was ousted by People Power II.

Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, 2001-10. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo had merely moderate or neutral scores in her first two years. Her sharp fall to -14 [typo: should be -41] from the range of +16 to +26) in March 2005 was due to the great public opposition to the Philippines' joining "the coalition of the willing" for US President George Bush Jr.'s war in Iraq. It was the first time that a Filipino president ever had a negative rating.

Gloria had the Iraq war coalition line to the public in unique when a Filipino head there in Iraq was taken hostage: then her rating was back in positive, but not rating thereafter was +20, achieved in March 2004—the one and only time her score reached the level of "good."

From August 2004 to the end of her term, GMA's scores were all negative, meeting "bad" (between -30 and -49) several times and "very bad" twice (-50 in July 2008, and -53 in March 2010). She ended with a poor -17 in June 2010.

What about PNoy? Notwithstanding the fact that each president has been unique circumstances, I would say that PNoy is popular by has fared decently. Its trend has definitely been close to the standards of Cory and FVR, which were obviously superior to those of Erap and GMA.

The new net satisfaction rating of PNoy is not at all unfavorable, relative to other past presidents' ratings. It happens to be less than the scores of his earlier quarters, but the difference are so normal that there is nothing to lose sleep about.

• • •

Contact SWS: www.sws.org.ph or mahar.mangahas@sws.org.ph.

Ok luv u

AFTER HOURS Ran a decade of texting, I've concluded that our parents, especially our fathers, have standard text messages: "Cge" (which means they agree with whatever has been said), "Ha?" (which means they demand an explanation), and "K" (which can mean almost anything from "sure, no problem" to "sure, go ahead but if I find out, you're dead").

My dad uses all three, sometimes in rapid-fire succession, which makes him "sound" angry or impatient even if he really isn't. For him, text messaging is supposed to be quick correspondence. In our case, it's always a conversation despite the terse.

The distance between my dad and me is mostly geographic: I stay in a boarding house in Quezon City and he stays in our house in Laguna. In most ways than one, writing helps bridge that gap. There was a time when I only texted him to ask if I could hitch a ride home and he only texted me to ask if I was coming home for dinner. He would rouse me about my old texting habits, saying that I need to text him only whenever I needed something, especially money.

Our conversations used to be close to empty. Despite our habit of talking about the NBA, debating about current events, and sharing useless knowledge, our exchanges had a hard ceiling to how much we connected to them. I never talked to him about my fickle frustrations; he never talked to me about his problems at work. We kept secrets from each other; mainly because I didn't think he'd understand and maybe because he thought I shouldn't worry about his problems.

And, boy, did we keep secrets from each other! I submitted my dad articles I wrote for student publications and he submitted me applications for entry-level jobs at companies where one of engineering only when I was already a year before graduation. And he never knew about the protest mobilizations I joined until he saw me on TV shouting, with my fist raised high in the air.

But just when I thought there couldn't possibly be larger, more life-changing secrets that we have kept from him, it took my dad four years before he told me about his conversation with a doctor who had diagnosed my mother's ailment as leukemia. A month later, my dad was confined in hospital because his health suffered as he struggled to cope with my mom's death. I wouldn't have known of his condition had my cousin bonded what he said: "Don't tell my daughter. She might be distracted from her studies."

Those past two years, things have changed between my dad and me. I have made a conscious effort to text him more often, telling him about my day and asking him about his. During our drives home I try my best to stay awake and could talk to him more. And he texts back. I understand that the errors I choose to inflict upon myself by going to protest rallies and working to far-flung areas, and leaving dates with friends in the most ungodly hours of the day. He admits that he finds it difficult, but he also tries to find solace in believing that I am happy doing what I do.

Maybe it's because we now share a love so great that we can finally see beyond the little but significant screens a screen from each other despite distance. Or maybe it's because there are way too many "still" pictures, making it hard or to find an excuse not to call or at least text every day. Whatever the reason, my conversations with him now sound more like something I share with friends, complete with the occasional long-winded explanation followed by a laugh.

Once during a drive home, my dad asked me if it was normal to still miss my mom two years after she died, and if it was normal for missing or to be so difficult. His question surprised me, but in my heart I knew I had the right answer.

I told him about the One Third Theory, which states that the emotional pain of losing a loved one is the same as a relationship should at most be one-third of the duration of the relationship. As an example, I told him how difficult it was for me to move on from a relationship that lasted only a year and a half and how hard it was to accept that I still never again share a conversation with the person I loved because she simply left my life.

I then reminded my dad that he'd been married to my mom for 23 years when she died, and that they'd been together since they were teenagers. I lightly punched his arm and joked: "If you were me, in less than five years, there is means you no longer loved mom during your 18th anniversary." He laughed and said, "Of course I still love her. I love her your mother since birth to now." I actually doubted if I wanted to be with her for more than five years. I never thought I'd have my right baby until she gave me to me."

By then we were both crying, but I'd most mostly our laughter than filled the car.

Yet this newfound closeness is reduced to silence whenever my dad texts his standard reply which almost always ends our conversations: "Ok luv u." He texts me those three words every day as our conversations wind down, and after all these years I still feel uncomfortable telling him that I love him more than anything.

Don't get me wrong. I've always tried my best to reassure my family members, especially my dad, that I have them by coming home on their birthdays no matter how busy my schedule is, by always choosing family gatherings over personal, study scheduled commitments, and by keeping my family that values. I have the license to say "I told you so." Believe me, my dad would know the amount of love and patience it takes to not say those words, especially if one is absolutely right.

But then I've also lost enough to know that our being able to say how much you love someone is beyond remembrance and how painful it is to know that you no longer have a chance to say it because you waited too long and it's now too late.

So, Pa, here's my reply to all those times you've texted "Ok luv u."

Things are not always OK, especially on days when we are absolutely miserable because we still miss mom. Sometimes I hate the books I read and sometimes you hate the drivers on Edsa, sometimes I'm not sure if I can go through another day without crying and sometimes you're not sure if you can go through the day without drinking about mom. It's difficult having to live with so many ugly things and being separated from the things we love.

But I do love you, Pa. For all that it's worth, know that I love you in the same way I know how much you mean to me—as a single word: "Ok." I mean it when I say it. I hope it's enough courage to say it as often as you do. Maybe I'm just too proud. Maybe I'll try harder.

Maybe "Ok luv u" is something I'll learn to say some day. Maybe I just need more time.

Pa, everything will be okay. I love you.

Marvian Pio Roda Ching is discovering how much he misunderstands his father with 100% regularity by tagging around the UP Academic Oval, writing what's hopefully poetry, and hoping thanks in bulk. She says she and her father talked to her dad about their break until the night she told him about the One Third Theory.

YOUNG BLOOD

Marvian Pio Roda Ching

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twenty-something set below—Ed.

Gearing up for a new school year

COMMENTARY

Nemi Sta. Romana Cruz

EVEN BEFORE the formal start of the school year, over 250 public school teachers out of 1,111 applicants—including advocates of—made it to the list as selected participants in the 7th Ani Akat Indian Foundation (ISIK) Cayang Rashbay Filipino annual conference hosted by Ateneo de Manila (for twenty on campus on the last three days of May. The name "gayong Rashbay" is deliberately chosen because it is a Filipino word that means to learn; with teachers standing "shoulder to shoulder" to improve teaching and learning in their schools. Every SHS and ISIK strand committed and shoulder to shoulder to support Kasilaay teachers.

This is one of the ways that ISIK is demonstrating the most promise as teaching advocates in their schools. Their applications were endorsed by their principals who had conducted a general evaluation of faculty performance; the applicants themselves had to answer detailed questions and write three brief essays on their teaching and learning lives.

Participants shared their experiences as endorsers throughout the conference. Exercises for their learning and tasks were all underwritten by ISIK. Some would have not be prepared and writing started for another year of teaching with the wide offering of eight plenary workshops and 40 workshop speakers.

Prominent among the speakers who endorsed

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Danger zone for students

LETTERS

I AM writing to inquire whether barangay or city officials have the right to decide how streets—which are paved and maintained with people's taxes—are used. As far as I know, they are supposed to be used as roads, not as commercials or areas for parking fees.

While many of the food stalls on E. Pajo [illegible] have moved elsewhere—on sidewalks, or other streets, perhaps—the spaces vacated by them have not been restored as road space for vehicles. E. Pajo, as well as F. Puerto del Rosario and F. Campa streets are now used as open parking lots, with the barangay tanod and volunteers acting as parking attendants. The corners of Retiro Street along Mendiola and S.H. Loyola streets have been used as parking areas for at least 10 years now. Worse, they have also been turned into garbage disposal sites and hiding places for thieves and pickpockets.

There are at least 160,000 students in the University Belt, all young people. They should be the best 160,000 reasons to keep the "U belt" a safe and clean pedestrian area. But the sidewalks are too narrow, blocked or nonexistent. So people have to walk on the streets. But the streets are messy and pollution-ridden.

Why can't Manila Mayor Fred Lim do anything to permanently free the U-belt streets from traffic obstructions? Why can't anyone do anything about the jeepney terminals? There have all contributed to the long, seeming image of the U belt being "dirty, dangerous and disorganized" (according to a 2000 UP-EE research).

Can't anyone or any agency—the city of Manila, the Department of Interior and Local Government, the Department of Public Works and Highways, or the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority—just come under the streets of the U-belt?

Please help.

—A.L. DEJESUS,
S.H. Loyola Street,
Barangay 598, Sampaloc, Manila

Ordination 'attempts'

MAY I call attention to the article of Inero Abadilla, regarding the attempt to ordain women ("Double blessing," Inquirer, 6/11/12).

As far as the law and teaching of the Roman Catholic Church are concerned, no ordination took place (therefore, it is invalid, contrary to what was stated, and it is at the same time illicit). We call such acts "attempts" inasmuch as no sacramental effect takes place in such invalid acts.

The same invalidity of the sacraments is held by the Church in cases when a validly ordained priest in the Latin Rite attempts to marry a woman before any deacon, priest or bishop. Canon Law 1024 says: "A baptized male alone receives sacred ordination validly."

—FR. BENEDICT HALBERTOC, OSJ,
Rome, Italy

A new 'route' to solving PH-China disputes

I HOPE in Bank Prof. Cleotis R. Cadoo for creating us to a different "food taste." Indeed, here the signs of impeachment proceedings made us crave for a different flavor. I found it richer. Into I commentary ("Core politics more co-operation in South China Sea").

Invading the situation between China and the Philippines, she made it clear to me that the Chinese and Filipino have many beneficial things in common. For example, both are to manifold a common root.

Of similar significance is the study of the nations...the very same waters under the same skies, where coral formations, sea plants and fish species are all part of one ecological whole. One ecological whole! Can't we allow each other to enjoy the gifts of the sea? Not in the manners of "you throw, we here," for we are one. In fact we call it "Oh-ocean."

Professor Cadoo has my 100 percent "approval" in her solution—the low politics more co-operation. But my question is, what effort in our government, aside from the Department of Foreign Affairs, should suggest to China the way of co-operation?

Are the Chinese and Filipinos possessed with the full rigor to understand each other, in all cases, paving the way for unconditional human possibilities?

Kudos, Professor Cadoo!

—ROSSMARIA A. PAESONO,
[illegible]

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Separated senator says no to divorce

By Michael Lim Ubac

DIVORCE? Out of the question.

Although he parted ways with his wife last year, Sen. Francisco Pangilinan said he is opposed to the legalization of divorce in the country.

At the Explikan sa Serbisio news forum, the senator said the family Code's provisions on legal separation and annulment were enough options for addressing dysfunctional marriages.

"In my view, there is a serious disagreement between the government, Congress and the (Catholic) Church over the September 12 Reproductive Health bill, so this is not the right time to cause trouble (with) it," he also said.

The Philippines is the only remaining country outside the Vatican that does not have a divorce law.

Gabriela party-list Representatives Luz Ilagan and Emmi de Jesus have filed a bill introducing divorce in the country. It is languishing at the House committee on revision of laws.

Divorce vs. annulment

Escudero has filed a petition to annul his marriage in 1999 to Christine Elizabeth "Tessie" Hawa with whom he has fraternal twins—a boy and a girl.

Escudero took pains to explain the difference between divorce and annulment.

"Legally, the ground and basis for annulment should have existed at the time you were married," he said. While in the divorce law in the US, for example, incompatibility is allowed as a legal ground to seek the nullity of marriage.

However, Escudero pointed to "a small window for divorce" in Article 36 of the Family Code.

"There is a catchphrase that allows a small window for divorce. In Article 36 of the Family Code, the basis for psychological incapacity as a ground for annulment should exist at the time of marriage, and this is the questionable phrase, even though it become apparent after the marriage," he said.

"So it's a 'not born not there' (provision), which does not jibe with the legal and traditional difference of divorce and annulment," he said.

POLL SABOTAGE CASE

GMA lawyer claims witness is lying

By Cynthia D. Baluis

FORMER president and now Pampanga Rep. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo was not feathered as all by the testimony of former Maguindanao administrator Norie Unas who pinned her down in the election sabotage case before a Pasay Regional Trial Court, her legal spokesperson Raul Lambino said yesterday.

In a press conference, Lambino said Arroyo fully understood that Unas did so only to gain immunity from suit because he had been implicated in many anomalies during her administration, including the Maguindanao massacre and the poll cheating in Maguindanao.

"She expected it...she's not worried. We know that Unas is telling a lie," Lambino said.

Lambino said Unas was the lone witness that supposedly links the former president to the case.

Unas, a former close aide of former Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan Jr., claimed to have overheard Arroyo order his former boss during a Lakas party meeting in Malacañang to ensure a 12-0 victory for Team Unity senatorial candidates in Maguindanao two weeks prior to the May 2007 elections.

During his direct examination in the bail hearings, Unas said he was afraid that he would be charged with poll cheating as his name was being prominently mentioned by Limang Isdol and two other election officials as one of those behind the cheating operation.

Unas repeated the same statement during the cross-examination.

Lambino said that lawyer Gaspherd Partan, counsel for Ampatuan, was able to elicit an admission from Unas that he wanted to escape prosecution from several cases lined up against him, including his involvement in the Maguindanao massacre.

Lambino also pointed out that Unas volunteered as a condition to his reversal in an affidavit on Oct. 3, 2011 that he be given immunity from criminal prosecution and be admitted to the Witness Protection Program (WPP).

During the court hearing, Lambino said it was also established that Unas was admitted to the WPP for merely 90 days and that his application for an extension of the coverage was not approved.

Despite his admission of direct participation in poll cheating, Lambino said that Unas was not charged by the Commission on Elections (Comelec) but was instead placed under the custody of Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes while Comelec prosecutors clarified that Unas was just an "ordinary witness."

"Unas is being praised by all election officers presented by the Commission on Elections in the bail petition filed by Arroyo, Ampatuan and Reyes as having a direct participation in poll cheating in Maguindanao in the 2007 senatorial elections," he said.

"It has been widely suspected that his testimony is link (to former president) was a ruse in order for him to escape prosecution from the electoral sabotage case and his alleged participation in the gruesome Maguindanao massacre, where he is being pointed as having a direct hand in the convoy of the case," he added.

Reverse Barrameda ruling, gov't petitions appeals court

By Jerome Aning

GOVERNMENT lawyers have asked the Court of Appeals to reverse its decision barring Manuel Mamaril, the self-confessed killer of Ruby Rose Barrameda, from becoming a state witness, arguing that rules for his discharge as an accused had been "judiciously complied with."

In a motion for reconsideration, Solicitor General Francis Jardeleza said Mamaril was the only person who could link Barrameda's managed husband, Manuel Barrera II, and his father, Manuel Jr., to the crime.

"The brutal killing of Ruby Rose Barrameda was not meant to be discovered. It is only the testimony of Mamaril, who ran at once forward and confessed to the crime, which provided direct evidence to the conspiracy and identities of the perpetrators," Jardeleza said.

For this reason, Montero's testimony was an "absolute necessity," the Solicitor General said.

No direct testimony

"In plain words, if Montero does not testify as a state witness, there will be no direct testimony linking to the crime the officers arrested and those who are only guilty for the gruesome death of Ruby Rose may be allowed to go free," he said.

Montero, a former employee of the Amazons, led authorities in 2009 to Barrameda's body, two years after the victim disappeared.

The Solicitor General said the Court of Appeals ruling would only benefit the Amazons.

"Montero's discharge is being blocked in the hope that he will refuse to take the witness stand and thereby giving an evidentiary support petitioner (Manuel II) and his officers accused," Jardeleza said.

Grave abuse of discretion

The Court of Appeal's 10th Division also granted the petition of Manuel Jr. calling for the re-raffling of the case following the refusal of Makati Rep. Guy Asidjo Ganlobo to re-inhibit himself from the case.

The Court of Appeals faulted Manuel Jr.'s claim that Ilocos committed grave abuse of discretion and agreed with the petition of Ilocos's contention that not all the conditions in Section 17, Rule 119 of the Revised Rules of Court for the discharge of an accused were not complied with.

The appeals court also ruled that there was no absolute necessity for the testimony of Montero as a witness since he could testify and shed light on the conspiracy without being discharged as a state witness and that he would only be repeating what he stated in his sworn statements.

'Golden' era gone, says mining chief

By Kristine L. Rivera

THE PHILIPPINES used to be among the top 10 gold and copper-gold producing countries in the world. Not any more, according to the head of the government miners division.

Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) Director Leo Jasareno, at a lunch with the mining industry yesterday, said anti-mining sentiments were taking their toll on the country's gold production, which plummeted 60 percent this year despite rising metal prices.

"The Philippines is no longer in the top 10 gold producing countries now to the top 10 copper gold producing countries," he said but added that nickel production remained robust. The Philippines is now the second largest nickel producer in the world, he reported.

Jasareno lamented that "anti-mining sentiment" in the Philippines has affected the growth of the industry. He noted that about 40 provincial bans signed laws and ordinances banning mining activities. Legitimate mining companies were also halted by the Supreme Court, he added.

"The anti-mining advocacy is not only in others, it is hurting the country," the MGB chief said.

The continuing resistance was due to lack of information on sustainable mining, he said. Communities also reserved lands or no revenue from mining flows to them or us.

The mining industry was also at fault, he said, for years, they have abandoned mines and found environmental issues in the Philippines, Jasareno added.

Comelec willing to demo PCOS machines to public

By Jerome Aning

THE COMMISSION on Elections (Comelec) is willing to conduct a public demonstration to remove doubts about the performance of the controversial Precinct Count Optical Scan (PCOS) machines that will be used in the 2013 polls.

"We are open to [a public demonstration] in the spirit of transparency. As a matter of fact, we have a scheduled demonstration in Congress. Sen. Aquilino Pimentel III requested for a demonstration. So why not?" Comelec Commissioner Rene Sarmenta told reporters.

"The Comelec is prepared (for a public demonstration). As a matter of fact the machines are subject to inspection once we receive them. This is to ensure that the glitches have been addressed. That is included in our contract," he added.

Sarmenta said the Comelec en banc should have to discuss the modalities of the public demonstration but he added, "I think no one will object to that."

Rather, Cagayan Rep. Jack Enrile urged the Comelec to make a voluntary demonstration of the PCOS machines features and operation to prove that the technical glitches in the 2010 polls have already been corrected.

The Supreme Court on Tuesday upheld the Comelec's decision to purchase 82,000 PCOS machines worth P1.8 billion from its 2010 automation service provider Smartmatic Corp.

The Center for People Empowerment in Governance, a member of the coalition that sued Comelec before the Supreme Court to stop the purchase of the PCOS machines, called on Smartmatic to disclose to the public the ownership of the voting machines' software and minor source code and logic detected, and the supposed conversion that was made.

"As their sovereign right, the people should be informed fully of the internal and external mechanisms of the election system," CenPEG policy director Bobby Tuazon said in a statement.

Former Comelec Commissioner Augusto Lagman welcomed Comelec Chair Sixto Brillantes Jr.'s call for the opponents of PCOS machines to meet with the commission to address their concerns.

"We're okay with the idea of meeting them, provided that we bring participants as well. Maybe they won't even listen to us. We all want automation to be successful," Lagman told the Inquirer in a phone interview.

Lagman, an Information Technology expert, had to quit the poll body after Malacañang failed to reappoint him in April.

The Supreme Court has pointed to decision on the PCOS case on it's website.

Shell to invest P6.5B for refinery

By Amy R. Remo

PILIPINAS SHELL Petroleum Corp. is revamping about $150 million (roughly P6.45 billion) to upgrade its refinery in Tabangao, Batangas, which will not only result in more efficient operations for the oil firm, but will also help shield Filipinos from the volatility of global oil prices.

The company has decided on this action despite facing numerous lawsuits filed by the government over Filipinas Shell's alleged tax evasion and under-lanation of imported crude materials.

Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras said that the decision of Filipinas Shell and its parent firm Royal Dutch Plc to pour in more investments in the country could be attributed to renewed confidence in the Philippine economy amid the Aquino administration.

The investment, he added, was also an offshoot of the meetings held between members of the Philippine delegation with business leaders in the UK.

Almendras disclosed that Filipinas Shell was already close to completing a refurbishment of its refinery to enable it to undertake modifications to the design and refining processes of Filipinas Shell's 110,000-barrels-a-day refinery.

The actual upgrading activities are set to begin next year and the modernized facility hopes to start commercial operations by 2015, the energy official said.

By upgrading the facility, Filipinas Shell will be able to produce more "white products" such as liquefied petroleum gas, gasoline and diesel in its refinery out of the "black yields," thus helping shore doing the demand of the local market.

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendrez
Assistant Editor Francis T.J. Ortuoa

SPORTS

Tabuena rescues 70, stays on top

TABUENA 41-29

THUMBS' Miguel Tabuena salvaged a one-under-par 70 from the ashes of a horrendous front nine Friday to keep his share of the lead, this time with Thai veteran Thaworn Wiratchant halfway through the Queen Cup 2012 at Amphitheatre Internationale Country Club in Thailand.

The overnight leader with another grinded That, Boonchu Ruangkit, the 16-year-old Tabuena fingered three of the first nine holes before coming back with four birdies, including three on the last four holes, for a 137 total.

Wiratchant fired a 67 to catch Tabuena on top, one shot clear of Bahraun Gulshiver of Bangladesh. Siddikur added a 69 to a 69.

But the biggest leap was made by reigning Asian Tour champion Juvic Pagunsan who shot the day's best of 65 (both around seven birdies and equalling eagle on the line.

The blistering round swept under the rug Pagunsan's double 75 in the first round and catapulted him into a three-way tie for 8th spot at 140 with Thitat Kitsuksch Apibhaiwan (72) and Seungbeal Pitnyanee (68).

Antonio Lascuña added a 73 to a 71. Thursday and lay on the card but Filipino at 144, one shot in front of Angelo Que, who improved to a 66, and two clear of Jay Bayron (72), and Mars Pamay (76).

Elmer Salvador also another 77 for 214 and missed the cut at 146.

Asian Tour News

Painters shut down B-Boys

Hot Tigers hold off Gin Kings

By Maureg R. Castillo

COACH Yeng Guiao wore a handsome smile when he stepped into the press room last night, and it was quite understandable for two big reasons.

"I am happy with the way we are handling pressure," Guiao said, moments after Rain or Shine eked out an 87–77 decision of stanzaed Mendoza that gave his Elasto Painters a playoff berth in the PBA Governors' Cup at Smart Araneta Coliseum.

"Our guys are maturing and we are able to draw out the hard games, the close games," Guiao added, after his squad rose to 5-1 overall to again claim a tie for the lead with idle B-Meg. "Although this is a very young team, in a way, they are playing like veterans."

Jamelle Cornley scored 21 points and had 18 rebounds, and super rookie Paul Lee dropped 16, including the go-ahead clutcher with 37.6 seconds left as Rain or Shine dealt the B-Boys their fourth loss in six games.

"We are without some of the pressure [after making the playoffs]," Guiao said. "Also if we[want to continue] to the semifinals, every game is going to be very important."

Gary David's streak of scoring 20-plus points stopped after 10 games, but the Powerade winning run stretched to four later in the night after the Tigers stopped Barangay Ginebra, 86-83.

Omar Sneed gave the Tigers' moves with 17 points, including seven inside the final 26.7, as Powerade improved to 4-2 overall and dealt the Gin Kings their third loss in six games.

David Semerad with 16 and Ryc Cuevasos added 13 for the Tigers, who are undefeated with Sneed around. Cedric Bozeman led the Kings with 23 points with Mitch Caguioa chipping in 12.

Rain or Shine
Omar Sneed 17, Lee 16, Semerad 13, Cuevas 13, Salinas 9, Laguerta 5, Asilum 5, Ilagan 5, Demusis 2, Sumalinog 2, Allera 0, Arana 0
Ginebra
Bozeman 23, Caguioa 12, Mallari 9, Ahanmisi 8, Ong 8, Ayaay 6, Ross 5, Mariano 5, Mbuyaguli 5
Quarters: 19-17, 37-35, 69-66, 87-77

T.Y. Tang of Rain or Shine goes for a reverse layup off Marcio Lassiter of Barangay Ginebra in last night's game at Smart Araneta Coliseum. ALEXIS DOMINGUEZ

NLEX quint recruiting to remain unbeatable

By Jaymiko W. Pago

NLEX IS the only champion the PBA D-League has known. And the Road Warriors hope to keep it that way, until the next conference, at least.

Even before the Road Warriors completed a remarkable 11-game sweep to capture a third straight crown, coach Boyet Fernandez said the team has been gearing up for the next season.

"We already started linking players even before the finals," admitted Fernandez. "We're scheduling because we know eight who are joining the PBA."

It's not just the pro league, though, that's working for the arrival of NLEX's young stars.

The Smart Gilas national team also hopes to tap some of the squad's core members led by Cliff Hodge, the Filipino-American forward who bagged the Best Player of the Conference plum.

Aside from Hodge, also in the wish list of either the national or pro teams are Chris Ellis, the Eastern 11 standout; JR Galicia, Mapúa's Ronnan Ilisodor; Ares Ilerla's Jake Pascual; and the San Sebastian power trio of Calvin Abueva, Ian Sangalang and Ronald Pascual.

"Those are the future stars of the PBA," said Fernandez.

Got to entertain their names as a one-and-done crew, the Road Warriors have their eyes on stayers Nico Salva, San Beda's Baser Amer and Adamson's Alex Nuyles next season.

Standing on a bolstered charge, the Road Warriors overwhelmed Big Chill, 102-62, in Game 2 last Thursday to complete a 2-0 sweep of the best-of-three series.

It was a familiar scenario, though, as the Road Warriors never lost a game in the championship round.

In the league's inaugural season in 2010, the Road Warriors swept Cebuana Lhuillier, 2-0, in the finals, before pulling off the same feat against Energy Jones the next conference.

"This is really one for the books," said Fernandez. "Everyone really worked hard for this."

Beermen, Warriors begin ABL title series

By Jaymiko W. Pago

ALL the talk about an ever-standing idea had both San Miguel Beer and host Formosa predicting a tight finale series in the Asean Basketball League.

Thus, the Beermen vow to go all out against the similarly confident Warriors in Game 1 of their best-of-three series at 4 p.m. today at Thanta Sports Arena in Pasig.

"We've been having good practices," said San Miguel coach Bobby Ruiz. "Everybody has been focused since we know we're going up against such a great team, other Indonesian first coach changes [in its lineup], I told my team that Indonesia is going to be tough."

And Indonesia already proved that it can upset the favored Philippine team when the Warriors surprisingly swept the second-ranked Alchesia Philippine Patriots, 2-1, in the semifinals.

"Even when the Patriots were in first place early in the season, I still felt that Migrad is the best team in the league," Indonesia's American coach Todd Purves said during yesterday's press conference at the SMC compound.

"We both have great imports, they have a great backcourt, but we also have a quick backcourt. So it's a wonderful matchup. We expected San Miguel to be here [the series] close."

Although San Miguel had to go through the distance against Malaysia, 2-1, in the semifinals, the Beermen remain favored with Filipino guard Chris Ramsbottom, Leo Avenido, Reggie Ing, June Mar Fajardo and imports Nick Rawlins and Dexter Cortez.

"We know it's going to be a tough series and it's going to come down to rebounding and defense," said Ramsbottom, who will be tasked against Indonesia's spunky Filipino guard Stanley Pringle.

The Warriors boast a strong import duo in Steve Thomas and Ivan Sheick.

Younghusbands back as Loyola battles Navy

By Cedrif P. Tupas

NATIONAL team standout Phil and James Younghusband return to club duties today when the Ateneo Loyola Meralco Sports Inc.-backed Navy Red Aces at the re-inception of the United Football League.

The Younghusband brothers, who played two matches for the Azkals during the international break over the past week, will be at the forefront of the Sparks' attack in the 4 p.m. clash at Rizal Memorial Stadium.

A win by the Sparks will push them to second spot, a point behind Ilaya which lost a game in hand. They have four games left, including a duel with Global, which they would need to sweep to bag the title.

Similarly Global, which rallied from 1-3 deficit to beat Quezon national team, 5-3, Thursday night in an exhibition match at the same venue, needs to sweep its last three matches to claim the title.

Army and Green Archers collide in the first game of a triple-A with both teams trying to extend a relegation battle with Navy.

With a win, Archers will leapfrog past Army at eighth spot and be out of danger.

Still, it's goals under his name, Archers striker Floriano Fajardo will be a marked man against Army, which is hoping to avenge a 6-1 loss to Archers in the first round.

Army will remain in spot in the first division next season with a win over Archers.

HEIRS (L-R) CHAMPION Georgia Ong (left) and runner-up Hadley Mariano of College of St. Benilde-Gordon Heights at the recent 3rd SMFAP-Nonino International 10-Ball Tournament at Herman Sports Bar on Wilson Avenue, Quezon City. Ong, an architect by profession, edged the League junior ace Mariano of Bago Pressentation, 7-5, to win the event promoted by the Billiards Managers and Players Association of the Philippines headed by businessman Perry Mariano.

Belen tops BIR shoot; NCR rules team event

SOUTHERN Luzon's Jose Gil Belen emerged overall winner in the recent National of Internal Revenue's annual BIGI Hermanos Gun Club Inc.) shootfest at the QCPD firing range in Camp Karingal, Quezon City.

Belen posted the highest score among BIGI shooters and also placed second in the Men 61 Handicap Challenge featuring the event's top 16, losing only to Mindanao's Jaime Robles in the finals.

Rhodora Alvarez of NCR was the top scorer in the ladies' division. She also ruled the Lady 61 Handicap Challenge, beating Northern Luzon's Norma Agrupis.

NCR bagged the team crown, beating Northern Luzon, Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao. NCR also came in first in the Team vs Team Bowl Challenge.

BIGI president Tom Rosales of NCR topped the Executive category while Robles and Belen ruled the Junior Executive and Group Supervisors/Revenue Officers categories, respectively.

Commissioner Kim S. Jacinto-Henares and national champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla fired the ceremonial shots in the event announced as a Level 1 match by the Philippine Practical Shooting Associations and participated in by shooters, including veteran actor Eddie "Manny" Garcia.

BIR Commissioner Kim Henares and national champion Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla (fourth and third from left) fire the ceremonial shots. Also in picture are (from left) Gen. Leroy Lopez, regional director Romulo L. Aguila Jr., actor Eddie Garcia and BIGI president Tomas C. Rosales.

Huey, Lipsky reach semis; Nadal looms

TREAT Huey and American partner Sonny Lipsky barrelled to the semifinals Thursday after a rousing 6-3, 5-7, 10-4 super tiebreak over second seeds Frantisek Cermak of Czech Republic and Julian Knowle of Austria in the Gerry Weber Open men's doubles competition in Halle, Germany.

The 26-year-old Englander of PH tennis and Lipsky stepped over the gas in the super tiebreak to storm the shocking win and set up the thrilling prospect of playing against newly minted French Open champion Rafael Nadal, who is paired with Marcelo Costellers.

Nadal and Gonzalez are up against Michael Kohlmann and Florian Mayer of Germany in the quarterfinals. But their match has yet to start as the world No. 2 pair finished his third-round singles match, beating Lukas Lacko of Slovakia, 7-5, 6-1.

Huey, ranked 39th in the world in doubles, and Lipsky edged their opponents in most statistics including breakpoints saved (6 of 9). Cermak and Knowle saved only 1 of 2. The 35-year-old Cermak is 24th in the world, while Knowle, 28, is 48th in the world rankings.

Top-seeds Aisam-Qureshi of Pakistan and Jean-Julien Rojer of Netherlands downed Johan Brunstrom of Sweden and Philipp Marx of Germany 7-6 (5-7), 6-7 (7-11), 10-7, to take advance.

Qureshi and Rojer will take on Lukasz Kubot of Poland and Mikhail Youzhny of Russia, who drubbed Canadians Milos Raonic and Adil Shamasdin, 6-3, 7-5. *Marc Anthony Reyes*

DWYANE Wade leaps for a rebound. The Miami Heat co-captain bounced back with a strong performance in Game 2. AFP

LeBron gets help; Heat even series

OKLAHOMA CITY—LeBron James asked for help, and his Miami teammates Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh provided it in the third-quarter blitz that powered the Heat past Oklahoma City Thursday (Friday in Manila) 100-96 in Game 2 of the NBA finals series tied at 1-1.

James scored 32 points, Wade rebounded from a poor opener with 26 and the Heat built a huge early lead before holding off a furious fourth-quarter rally thanks to their three All-Stars.

Bosh had 16 points and 11 rebounds in his return to the starting lineup for the Heat, who snapped a four-game Finals losing streak dating back to last season.

"It's been an long since we've had three all together," Heat forward Shane Battier said. "They played like the All-Stars that they are and that's the effort that we need."

Now they go home to host Game 3 on Sunday and the next two after that, knowing they don't have to beat the noisy Thunder fans again—and no nonsense all their visitors—if they win all three.

"We've been down. We've withstood rallies. The good thing about it, when they scored, we didn't get our head down. We just got back on offense and scored in earnest," James said. "It's a great team that we're going against. So we're going to need every effort, every play and it's going to be a long series down so everyone has got to get a win."

Kevin Durant scored 32 points for the Thunder, but missed a shot that would have sent a game to which Oklahoma City waited throughout. Russell Westbrook finished with 27 points, eight rebounds and seven assists, but shot 10-of-25 from the field.

James Harden tried to keep the Thunder in it early and finished with 21 points, but this time the hosts couldn't come back from a double-digit deficit after quarting Miami a 17-point advantage during their worst first half of the season.

"That was the game. We can't start off down, 19-2," Durant said. "We can't go down that much, especially at home."

It was the first home loss in 10 postseason games for the Thunder, who had overcome a 13-point deficit in Game 1.

James had 30 points in the opener, but afterward said he needed more help from his friends, especially Wade.

In Game 1, Wade was 7 of 15. He was all but ruled out Wednesday if his replacement was in a thigh of the past.

Wade bounced back in a big way, not quite as the level he was on the 2006 Finals MVP, but certainly good enough with the help around him now for the Heat to win another one.

He spun into the lane and found Bosh for a dunk that seemed to have the Heat safe at 99-91 inside the final minute, led a 9-points by Durant not it to 98-96 with 57 seconds left. After James missed a 3 pointer, the Thunder got the ball into Durant, who appeared to be knocked off balance by James as he missed the baseline shot attempt. AP

Qualifier paces US Open; Tiger lurks

SAN FRANCISCO—Michael Thompson shot a 5-under 66 in the first round of the US Open on Thursday, taking a three-shot lead to the clubhouse over the hard-charging Tiger Woods and Ernie Els.

The 2007 US Amateur runner-up at Olympic Club—not played as though he knew the course, finishing with seven birdies to go with three bogeys in an up-greenside and fearless round. Thompson still wouldn't feel satisfied with 54 holes remaining and a familiar face lurking behind in another major.

"Give Tiger the spotlight," Thompson said. "I don't care. I'm going to go out and play my game. If I go out and post the way I did today, I'll be in contention."

What a way for this championship to begin.

Woods birdied consecutive holes late in his round and played the undulating Lake Course with the kind of confidence that has made him a 14-time major champion. He bogeyed his second to last hole and finished with a 1-under 69 to blow away playing partners Phil Mickelson and Els and Bubba Watson (73).

That's a sterling start for one of the world's most sensitive—and vocal—bunch—athletes of any generation considering how he played at the last major Woods never broke par in four rounds at the Masters in April.

"I felt very pleased with every facet of my game today and I enjoyed very patient out there," Woods said. "I was very pleased how I executed my game plan."

That could be a scary for the rest of the field.

The morning fog that blanketed the tight, undulating grounds lifted by the time the groups of Woods, Mickelson and Watson made the tee. Not that Woods needed faster and firmer conditions on day one after he broke the course record Mickelson and reigning Masters champion Watson.

All the more belonged for Woods.

Tracking his shots instead of looking them, Woods was in complete control of his game, finding fairways, striking greens and rewarding the third-rough and recovering more that four the course set on the side of a hill across the street from the Pacific Ocean. He opened with five pars and his approach on the par-4 11th bounced off the green and into the thick rough, leaving him to settle for bogey.

That was one of the few mistakes he made.

With the master layer hovering above the grounds and San Francisco's steep hills in the backdrop until mid-morning, Woods surgically worked his way through the course. He holed a 45-foot birdie putt on the par-5 fifth, giving a small fist pump and bringing the gallery roaring to its feet the way only he can.

"I knew I can hit the ball that way and I know I have been hitting the golf ball this way," Woods said.

Thompson was anything but consistent on a course he knows so well.

Thompson lost, 2 and 1, to Gil Ernst in a gruelling 36-hole finale at the US Amateur at Olympic five years ago, and hadn't played a meaningful round on the Lake Course until after he qualified for the US Open last week. AP

WOODS: I'm pleased with every facet of my game. AFP/JACK DEMPSEY

The Bible according to Tim, Bubba and Manny

SOUTHPAW

Percy D. Della

SACRAMENTO—His fellow and his football buds, Eddie Gomez and his golf and golf-ers.

And now status Manny Pacquiao and his avowed comradeship with Cleda.

Talk about Clubman sports-ass power—this high-octane evangelical trinity is poised to rock-and-roll-to-salvation.

Mahal Ops Boss Tibets quarterback of the 6456 New York Jets leads this blessed brothers band-aid to color the world from above.

Below, the most formerly spiritual of pic athletes, believes this event pedigree in America is God's Country—"Blessings"—doesn't bring its prayer after each victory or defeat a known philanthropist. Below teams up with charitable and faith-based organizations to help children of indigent families in low developed countries, including the Philippines.

Wherein, the reigning US Masters golf champion considers the fairway as a forum for Jesus to reach as many people as possible through him. Bubba bats his lofty among the faves, a republic of the PGA Tour's wealthy Bible study during a practice round. Watson believes that everyone deserves one true money.

Pinched to his senses by past pariahs, the quiet is Bonding's born-again Catholic. Penitent kneeling in prayers before and after trailing practices with a big approach. Joe has never misplaced into a more serious episodes of the Word.

The papers said Manny admitted in recent weeks that he abandoned his adulterous ways, given up drinking and late-night gambling. In favor of his faith. The Los Angeles Times has exposed clear according to his previous foul ways, "Pacquiao has received advances on fight purses as good as $4 million before his last two bouts to help pay off his gambling debts... estimated as $1 million to $2 million annually."

The Sweetspot legalizes has turned to religion to save his marriage and prevent his billions spinning out of control. When in Hollywood, the eight division champ's La Jolla apartment is his public as he studies the Bible and talks about his confidence to believers to tidiness, amidst rapes and his usual coterie of supporters and hangers-on.

His fellow embrace of Catholicism has made Manny a changed man, but when it the deserters? His handlers are not saying, but after Pacquiao's shocking split decision defeat to Timothy Bradley, some think he has lost his focus and killer instinct and has become soft on his opponents.

The last losing Capricorn co-opponent is retired Filipino trainer Gerge Thornton after his last to Ninety Young in San Juan, Puerto Rico in 1897.

After the loss retrieved by Sing Magazine as the flight of the Year of that era, Thornton abandoned boxing for 10 years. He came to his senses when he saw the Thrilla in Manila fight, his last shirt and gone to a dark place, until ultimately rescued by unseen hands.

Monthly after this Sweetness became a Christian minister.

Speaking of losers, Freeman recalls in his memoir "God is My Corner" that his defeat to Muhammad Ali in the classic "Rumble in the Jungle" in Zaire in 1974 was one of the turning points in his life.

Footnote: is an entrepreneur who has made big bucks touring for his enduring golf-an-eteer-ism.

Meanwhile, Pacquiao is gearing heavyweight for important life decisions. He hasn't offered a clue due he is muddling over his boxing.

Footnote: I never had the pleasure of working with Gene Mecaning, a veteran scribe who passed away on Monday at age 47. But living an share of the Journal group from very back, Gene was part of my extended sports family. Ex- Go Villanueva, Journal Group editor-in-chief, has a suspected reporter. The sports writing community has a giant of a man. :)

Triathlon trilogy's 2nd leg kicks off June 30

THE SECOND of a triathlon trilogy conducted from June 30 to July 1 at the scenic Playa Lalya in San Juan, Batangas, where over a hundred racers are expected to see action.

Organized by Bike Kings, the Tri United 2 features a long reverse race with a 3K swim-10K bike-5K run duathlon and the short 1K swim-20K bike-5K run sprint division.

Up for grabs in the second of the three-edition race are medals and cash prizes for the top three winners in the elite male, female-open, team competitions, who are also the Philippine Bantamweight first in male and female age groups.

Batangas Gov. Vilma Santos-Recto will host a dinner to welcome the participants of the event sanctioned by the Triathlon Association of the Philippines.

The race will also be the first local triathlon event that will use four-on-wheel motorcycle via FLEET BIKE Bonifacio.

Registration is ongoing at Bike King's store in Bonifacio Global City, G Strip entrie in Alabang and Greenhills, Starting line in Alabang and Second Wind branches in Ortigas and Quezon City.

For inquiries, contact the organizer at 856-32632 or visit UnitedActive Health's official website at www.unitedactivehealth.com.

In the first leg, the national team dominated the male elite division with Tokio Hodgins finishing first in 1:38:15. Irwin Ejan Ramos placed second at 1:39:39.

George Sling, a veteran campaigner, was relegated to third in 1:41:26.

The first leg was held last April 14, also in Playa Lalya. *Jasmine B. Payo*

SPORTSWATCH

UE sets homecoming, 'Baby' tribute

TOTABLE members of the University of the East (UE) Red Warriors men's basketball team will mark their first homecoming to coincide with activities to legendary coach Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan on July 3, Tuesday, at 6 p.m. at the UE Main Lobby. UE Manila Campus.

The school is inviting all former Warriors to attend.

For inquiries about the event, call UE Marketing department and UE Alumni Office at 7580800, 7580807 and 7580477 loc. 808, 809 or 319.

SPORTS BEAUTIES Photon, the leading sports and wellness accessories brand, lends its support to the Ms. Earth Philippines pageant in a unique way. The company partnered with the pageants during their sports fun (photo shoot) held recently at the SM Mall of Asia and gave away Photon products to the winners. For details, visit www.photonphil.com.

Karting fourth leg up

YOUNG aa karters try to bend their life task to reprise in the fourth leg of the 2012 Philippine National Karting Series at Carmona Racetrack.

Jose Luigi Ladrisa of One Racing and Dylan Arambulo of Speed Kart Workers aim to keep their grip of kart leadership in their respective classes of the event sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

Ladrisa seeks to bounce back and stay on top of the Formula Cadet Senior class. His chain saw was tainted by newcomer Jacob Angli's speed set at the Boracay Kart Track. Throughout the second run, he still remains up front with 228 points, a 16-point edge over second-running Francis Tanlu of AUTOfacing.

Arambulo, after his protest race that served 10 Cadets at Boracay, kept control of the Formula Cadet Junior class (FCJ).

Speed Kart Workers top gun Gabriel Calonzo, currently with 221 points, eyes another win in his quest for back in the Mini-ROK division.

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Editor Joseph Voltaire L. Contreras

Pateros keeps studes off Net shop porn

Cybercafe owners agree to police selves, put up firewall

By Nathaniel R. Mallon

TINY Pateros seeks to address a big parental concern: Internet cafés that lure minors with games and pornography.

Students in the last remaining municipality in Metro Manila should now think twice before cutting classes to go to their favorite cyber nooks, as the local government ordered all Internet shop operators to strictly enforce a Department of Education (DepEd) order banning students in such places during school hours.

"Earlier this month, we summoned all Internet shop owners for a dialogue so we can lay ground rules," Patero Mayor Joey Medina told the Inquirer in an interview yesterday.

Medina said the Internet café owners agreed to form an industry group to police themselves and bar students in their establishments during school hours.

"It will be easy for them to implement this because students studying in Pateros schools have their class schedules printed on the back of their IDs," the mayor explained.

By their own initiative, the owners also agreed to install a standard Internet firewall software on their computers which "will prevent access to websites with pornographic or other illicit content," he said.

"The good thing is, the firewall works with every customer who uses the Internet café's computers, not just with students or minors," Medina said.

The shops are currently using the standardized firewall software, he added.

The municipal government also reminded the owners to strictly observe the 10 p.m.

Parañaque drug lab had 3 floors, P874M stockpile, says PDEA

By DJ Yap

THE HAUL of illegal drugs seized from an abandoned laboratory in Parañaque City early this month had been valued at a staggering P874 million, the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA) said on Friday.

PDEA officer-in-charge Carlos S. Gadapan said among the recovered substances were 372 kilograms of ephedrine; 148 liters of liquid methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu"; 8,435 kilograms of solid and 29, 3084 liters of liquid chemicals.

Also seized were various pieces of lab equipments and other materials used in the manufacture of shabu from what the PDEA called a "mega clandestine laboratory," which authorities found on Km 19, East Service Road in Barangay San Martin de Porres on June 8.

"The property (in Parañaque) is about three times larger than the nine-hectare clandestine laboratory in Ayala Alabang," Gadapan said in a statement, referring to an earlier facility discovered in Muntinlupa City.

"The basement was used as laboratory for manufacturing shabu. The ground floor was utilized as storage room for chemicals, while the second floor served as the cooking or drying area. Our chemists had to work for eight straight days to finish processing the facility and conducting chemical analysis," Gadapan said.

He said the processing of the clandestine lab's shabu-making involved identifying and crushing pieces of evidence, taking samples, conducting field tests and taking full inventory—took four days.

He said another five days were spent analyzing the chemical components of the drugs.

Gadapan said there was a possibility that the laboratory in Parañaque City was connected to the three laboratories dismantled earlier this year in the posh Ayala Alabang subdivision.

"All of these facilities employ the Nagai process using red phosphorus to manufacture shabu. We also found [in the Parañaque laboratory] the same empty blister packs of the drug Sweetlet dispensed to Resident and Country Club Drive in Ayala Alabang," the official added.

Based on laboratory tests, Nabilone contains pseudo-ephedrine, classified as a dangerous drug under the Comprehensive Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002. Nabilone, a cannabinoid formed in Pakistan, is not available in the Philippine market.

"We presume that these [Nabilone] tablets are being smuggled into the country. It is not registered with the Bureau of Food and Drug, and therefore has not secured the PDEA issued permits for the legitimate importation of Nabilone," Gadapan said.

PRIVATE PALS A couple (the woman partly hidden) feed part-tree kangaroo/wallaby on a sidelimb Friday afternoon at Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center in Quezon City

QC wants bigger role in Ninoy wildlife park

By Julie M. Aurelio

CITIES private developers have expressed interest in running the 26-hectare Ninoy Aquino Parks and Wildlife Center into something more than a zoo, but the Quezon City government said it wished to encourage the park with the protected area and Wildlife Bureau (DENR).

The city government had only seen the preliminary proposal of a Singapore investor, but mayor Joy Belmonte said she had heard of other groups keen on improving the site, including a Swiss firm.

"It's all preliminary and long is definite yet. We are looking at the possibilities and how [cities] for the park to be a green haven in the middle of the city," Belmonte said in a phone interview.

Belmonte is serving as the city's officer in charge while Mayor Herbert Bautista is on an official trip overseas.

"The visitors raised the statement [creation to an hour more steep on Wednesday on the meeting between the PAWB and a group of Singaporean businessmen regarding their "unsolicited proposal" in the 3.3 hectares of the park into a nature sanctuary.

The Singapore developer had previous experience in developing a night safari and bird park, Belmonte said, withholding the name of the company.

The park, which was declared a protected area in 2004, is managed by the PAWB, with the Quezon City government serving as a supporting body.

The park also serves as a temporary shelter for confiscated, rescued or injured wild animals. Development and human activity in the area are limited to ensure the park's present collection of indigenous flora as well as shield the animals from stress.

Belmonte said the city government wishes to encourage the park with the PAWB in a bid to develop an integrated system of green parks in Quezon City, mostly near the Marikina River, which spans like the La Mesa Dam park, the Arboretum inside the University of the Philippines campus and the Balara filtration plant compound.

"I am very proud that Quezon City has the most number of green areas and we want to integrate [the management of these green areas," she said.

BELMONTE

The PAWPVC is also catered to the master plan for Quezon City's proposed Central Business District.

"We are one with the PAWB in the common goal of conserving and protecting nature," she said, adding that she wished to promote growth in Quezon City by making its green parks a nature and wildlife attraction.

Belmonte particularly mentions the PAWPVC to be a green habitat where animals are not caged and can breed freely.

She also dispelled rumors that part of the protected area will be turned into an amusement park, saying: "That will never happen in my lifetime."

Metro Briefs

NBI nabs bogus lawyer in Mandaluyong

FELLING to some residents proved to be the undoing of a 60-year-old man who was arrested by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation on Monday for allegedly posing as a lawyer. Apart from allegedly claiming a businesswoman, Senen Jose Escalera, of Cordillera Street, Mandaluyong City, is also the subject of arrest warrants issued in three different cities. Commissioner Rosalind Ibasco said she had email Escalera in March when he was looking for a lawyer in public to prepare her complaint-affidavit against a landowners she owns a debt. Escalera offered to represent her and charged her P1,000 for filing and notarial fees. She agreed and paid the amount, but when she asked Escalera for a receipt he could not produce any. She grew suspicious, checked with the Supreme Court, and found that he was not a member of the bar. The NBI later discovered that Escalera also had standing arrest warrants issued by a Pasig City court for indirect contempt, another by a Quezon City court for direct contempt, and another by a Makati City court for estafa and corruption of authority. Jeannelle I. Andrade

Victim's last words to gunman: 'It wasn't me!'

CAINTA-RIZAL shop owner David Salimpanan pleaded for his life but the gunman was not moved. The 46-year-old victim was shot dead at around 4 a.m. Friday while kneeling in his shop at his home in Barangay Bellavista here, police said. Police Senior Inspector Edmundo Cabrera said the victim was pleading with his killer in square four. "It wasn't me!" he pointed bullets said in Filipino. Cainta-rin employees who witnessed the shooting said the gunman came while another group remained outside in a motorcycle, which then sped towards Del Libra-Sierra Madre Ave. Julie M. Aurelio

Rob gang leader 'Pope' falls

TAGUIG CITY police arrested the alleged leader of a motorcycle and cell-phone robbery gang here early Friday in suburban Metro Manila. Senior Supt. Billy Beltran, city police chief, identified the suspect as Eric dela Cruz, alias Pope, a resident of Phase II in Pasay City. Beltran said Dela Cruz was the cell-phone with-by-SIM (subscriber identity module) cards and stolen cash. Beltran said Dela Cruz, 20, led the so-called Pope Group which was believed a string of motorcycle thefts in 2008 and 2009 in Parañaque, Las Piñas, and Pasay. Nathaniel Mahiwo

First Laguna Electric Cooperative, Inc.

INVITATION TO BID

A. Conductors	
1) Duplex No. 1/0	- 2,000 meters
2) Duplex No. 2/0	- 2,000 meters
B. Hardware	
1) Galvanized Iron Wire 12 (BG)	- 1,000 pcs.
2) Galvanized Iron Wire 2x30	
Socket Type 2000 KVA, 10 mm.	- 500 sets
3) Galvanized Iron Wire 2x30	
Socket Type 2000 KVA, 12 mm.	- 500 sets
C. Distribution Transformers	
1) 37.5 KVA 13200/V Double Bushing	- 3 units
2) 50 KVA 13200/V Double Bushing	- 3 units
D. Clamp, Primary 6-3/0	- 500 pcs.
E. Hot Dipt Zinc (Galvanized	- 500 pcs.

All interested parties can secure bid documents from PBAC Secretariat starting June 18, 2012 after payment of a non-refundable fee of Three Thousand Pesos (Php 3,000.00). Submission of sealed bids will be on June 28, 2012 10:00am at 2:00 p.m. at FLECO Main Office, Brgy. Lewin, Lumban, Laguna.

Request letters to participate in your sealed bids/proposals for delivery date, terms of payment and availability of stocks for evaluation purposes. Bid for sale items or lots as enumerated. The BAC RESERVES either in the form of cash or manager's check equivalent to two and one half percent (2.5%) of the total bid price.

IT IS ALSO RESERVED THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPT BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) **EMELYN C. ESPANOLA**
PBAC CHAIRMAN

(Sgd.) **ERNESTO G. ARBOLEDA**
Manager

(Sgd.) **LINDA G. ALBERTO G. ORBOSO**
Treasurer/Vice Chairman

(Sgd.) **ROBERTO G. ARBOLEDA**
Member

(Sgd.) **ROGELIO M. ORBOSO**
Member

(Sgd.) **ANGELITO M. ARBOLEDA**
Member

(Sgd.) **ERLINDA C. ARBOLEDA**
Member

(Sgd.) **ROMEO C. ORBOSO**
Member

(Sgd.) **ERNES

Suu Kyi begins triumphant visit to Europe

GENEVA—In impressive opposition from her stubborn, former Burmese political prisoner-turned-parliamentary leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, kicked off her first visit to Europe after nearly a quarter of a century by appearing at the 101st International Labour Organization (ILO) conference in Geneva to appeal for investment that would reward Burma's progress in democracy.

Setting the tone for what promises to be a 17-day trip of honor for her through five European countries, the labor group's director general, Juan Somavia, greeted Suu Kyi, 67, as "Aung San Suu Kyi" exclaiming "you fill this room with the light of your spirit," and bringing the audience to its feet for a standing ovation that was repeated at the end of Suu Kyi's address.

At the start of a tour that is another milestone in Suu Kyi's progress from political prisoner to political leader seeking to steer her country out of decades of repression, isolation and poverty to full engagement with the rest of the world, a pealing but self-confessedly rusty Suu Kyi said: "What I would like to see by our country is democracy-friendly development growth. I would like to call for aid and investment that will strengthen the democratization process by promoting social and economic progress that is beneficial to political reform."

Reminding herself as a politician but not a member of the government, at least "not yet," Suu Kyi said predicted investments would be in tourism, developing offshore financial services and basic infrastructure, particularly telecommunications, underlining the immediate need for jobs to help the plight of unemployed youths.

Suki KYI at a press conference during the 101st ILO in Geneva on June 14 —

"Problems related to drink and drug abuse and ongoing discrimination against women, discrimination, youth agenism over the [restrictions of their existence," she added in comments that might strike a chord in many up-and-down Europe.

But, she cautioned the government needed to adopt investment-oriented standards of transparency and accountability and, in a swipe at the state-owned oil and gas company which she said lacked these qualities, she said foreign companies could help by not partnering it until it had signed up to such standards.

In her address to the labor group necessarily focused on labor and economic issues, Suu Kyi turned to more general issues in a subsequent news conference, stating reasons over the ethnic violence that has claimed more than 20 lives in Burma's Rakhine state in recent days. But she refused to be drawn into the explosive issue of the rights and status of the minority Muslim Rohingya people.

"The most important issues we need to draw from it is the need for the rule of law," she said. "Without the rule of law, such communal strife will only continue."

Her comment came as the United Nations' special rapporteur for human rights in Burma, Tomas Quintana, warned that "the underlying tensions that stem from discrimination against ethnic minorities pose a threat to Burma's democratic transition and stability."

But Suu Kyi took the opportunity of this occasion to make an excellent term toward the military rulers who kept her under house arrest for a total of 15 years and still hold the whip hand in deciding the fate of Burma's fragile reforms.

After hours of official displeasure that followed her recent trip to Thailand, was she warned that Burma's leaders may take umbrage at the asylum and admonition bestowed by foreign governments?

"If only our rulers knew how nervous I am, they would be sorry for me and wouldn't be upset at all," she said.

Asked if she forgave the military for what it did in the past 24 years, she said, "In some ways, I don't think they did anything for me."

Her response disrupted briefly at her next stop, in Bern, the Swiss capital, where she fell ill and vomited in a news conference, apologizing to the crowd.

An official dinner in her honor was canceled, although she made it to spend about 15 minutes at a cocktail reception with Switzerland's president, Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf, and Justice Minister Simonetta Sommaruga before returning to her hotel, said Jean-Hilue Oberstein, a spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry.

"She was very tired and very emotional," he added.

Suu Kyi was to head to Norway on Friday, where she **planned to collect the Nobel** Peace Prize she won **twenty-one** years ago but felt unable to collect for fear that the military rulers would not allow her back into Burma.

It promises to be "one of the most historic events in Nobel Peace Prize history," Thorbjoern Jagland, the head of the Nobel committee has said.

While in Ireland, Britain and France will follow, mixing time off with her family to celebrate her 67th birthday next week with more pomp and circumstance as the dubious an address to both houses of Parliament in London, culmin in honorary doctorate from Oxford University and later meets Prince's new fiancée Camilla Parker Bowles.

—Agence France-Presse

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL IRRIGATION ADMINISTRATION
CAGAYAN REGION
Tuguegarao City

INVITATION TO BID

The National Irrigation Administration through the Joint CY 2012 Invitation to apply for one (1) or more Contract Packages as detailed below and further described in the Philippine Government Electronic Procurement System (PhilGEPS) Website.

PROJECT CONTRACT NO.	BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PROJECT	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT (ABC)	PROJECT DURATION
CAR-2012-01-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Diversion Weir	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-02-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Access Farm to Market	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-03-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-04-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Construction and Canal Structure	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-05-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-06-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-07-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-08-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-09-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-10-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-11-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-12-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-13-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-14-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-15-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-16-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-17-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-18-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-19-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-20-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-21-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-22-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-23-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-24-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-25-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-26-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-27-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-28-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-29-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-30-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-31-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-32-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-33-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-34-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-35-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-36-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-37-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-38-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-39-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-40-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-41-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-42-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-43-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-44-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-45-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-46-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-47-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-48-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-49-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-50-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-51-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-52-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-53-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-54-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-55-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-56-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-57-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-58-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-59-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-60-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-61-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-62-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-63-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-64-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-65-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-66-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-67-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-68-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-69-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-70-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-71-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-72-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-73-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-74-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-75-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-76-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-77-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-78-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-79-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-80-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-81-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-82-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-83-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-84-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-85-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-86-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-87-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-88-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-89-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-90-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-91-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-92-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-93-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-94-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-95-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-96-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-97-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-98-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-99-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD
CAR-2012-100-CAR-0-CAR-0-CW	Consultancy	₱ 1,000,000.00	120 CD

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pre-qualification as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act".

Bidding is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, partnerships, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

The Cagayan region applies the non-discretionary pre-qualification, or organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines.

Interested bidders may obtain their Letter of Intent on or before June 20, 2012 together with eligibility documents for initial evaluation and may obtain further information from the National Irrigation Administration, Cagayan Region, Tuguegarao City, Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the address given below from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Mon-Monday to Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from June 21, 2012 to June 27, 2012 from the address given below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee for the Bidding Documents in the amount of Fifteen Thousand Pesos Only (₱ 15,000.00).

The National Irrigation Administration will hold a Pre-Bid Conference on June 27, 2012 at 9:00 AM at National Irrigation Administration - Cagayan Valley Conference Room, Bayanan Road, City, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan which is optional. Bidders are encouraged to attend the Bidding Documents.

Bids should be delivered on or before July 4, 2012 at 9:00 AM at the address given below.

Bidders may submit bids by mail or by personal delivery. However, bids must be received on or before the deadline. Late bids shall be rejected. It is the bidder's responsibility to ensure that their bids are received on time at the address given below.

Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders' representatives who choose to attend at National Irrigation Administration Cagayan Valley Conference Room, Bayanan Road, City, Tuguegarao City, Cagayan which is optional. Bidders are encouraged to attend the Bidding Documents.

For further information, please refer to:

ENGR. ALBERTO D. CIMSON
Regional Bids Chairman
National Irrigation Administration
Bayanan Road, City

Date: ENGR. ALBERTO D. CIMSON
Regional BAC Chairman

Conforme:

Date: ENGR. ALBERTO D. MENDOZA
Regional Manager

(RE: June 16, 2012)

The WORLD

Editor Lawrence B. Greco

WORLDBRIEFS

Smell of death greets UN monitors in Syrian town

BEIRUT—Smoldering buildings, looted shops, smashed cars and a strong stench of death greeted UN observers who entered the nearly deserted Syrian town of Haffa on Thursday, a day after President Bashar al-Assad's forces overran it as part of a major offensive to recover rebel-controlled territories. The monitors had been trying to get into the town for a week after fears were raised that a brutal assault by regime forces was under way. They found the town hospital ransacked, state buildings and an office of the ruling Baath party in ruins and a corpse lying in the street. "A strong stench of dead bodies rose in the air," said Sanaa Ghoneim, spokesperson for the UN observers. She said there was still fighting in some pockets of the mountainous town in the seaside province of Latakia. AP

Suspect in '95 Tokyo attack said to be caught

"WANTED" sketch of Katsuya Takahashi

TOKYO—The major thought to be the final suspect from the doomsday cult behind the 1995 nerve-gas poisoning in a crowded subway station here that killed 13 people and sickened thousands of others was arrested on Friday, the police said. Investigators arrested the suspect, Katsuya Takahashi, 56, near an Internet cafe in central Tokyo after receiving a tip that a man resembling the fugitive had been spotted there, according to the public broadcaster NHK. Takahashi was arrested on suspicion of murder. His arrest came less than two weeks after Naoko Kikuchi, who is suspected of being an accomplice, was taken into custody in a Tokyo suburb. The police had said that information gathered during her arrest had led to them on Takahashi's trail. Both suspects had managed to elude the authorities for 17 years, although their photographs appeared on wanted posters across Japan. The manhunt gained traction after another member of the Aum Shinrikyo cult was taken in connection with the attack, Makoto Hirata, turned himself in to the police three months ago. AP/GMA

9 doctors convicted in Bahrain trial

DUBAI—An appeals court in Bahrain on Thursday upheld the convictions of nine doctors charged with crimes related to the popular uprising last year, in a case that drew international condemnation and was seen as a crucial test of the government's commitment to political reform. The nine doctors, who did not appear in court when the verdicts were announced, were sentenced to between one month and five years in prison. Nine other doctors had their convictions overturned. The doctors, all Shiites, were among thousands of people arrested during a government crackdown last year after protesters demanding greater political freedoms occupied a central roundabout in the Bahraini capital of Manama. AP/GMA

China suspends officials in forced abortion case

BEIJING—China suspended three officials and apologized to a woman who was forced to undergo an abortion seven months into her pregnancy in a case that sparked a public uproar after graphic photos of the mother and her dead baby were circulated online. The case has renewed criticism of China's widely hated one-child limit, which, while designed to control the country's exploding population, has led to often violently imposed forced abortions and sterilizations as local officials meet quotas set by Beijing. Feng Jianmei, 27, was beaten by officials and forced to abort the baby at seven months on June 2 because her family could not afford a 40,000-yuan ($6,300) fine for having a second child. AP

Blow to Egypt transition as court scraps parliament

CAIRO—A panel of judges appointed by Egypt's ousted president, Hosni Mubarak, threw the nation's troubled transition to democracy into grave doubt on Thursday with rulings that dissolved the popularly elected parliament and allowed the toppled government's last prime minister to run for president, escalating a struggle by remnants of the old elite to block Islamists from coming to power.

The rulings by Egypt's Supreme Constitutional Court were quickly condemned as a "coup" by Islamists, liberals and others. The court's action, coming two days before a presidential runoff, set up a showdown with the Islamist-led, centrally elected parliament. They said Thursday night that they refused to dissolve the legislature and vowed to win the presidency despite the signs of opposition within the government overseeing the vote.

The rulings enabled eventual Mubarak ally Ahmed Shafik, who served as the regime's last premier, to remain in the race. Shafik, a former air force general and Mubarak's last prime minister.

If the ruling is carried out, observers warn the presidential race would take power without the check of a sitting parliament and would possibly exercise significant influence over the election in favor of a new one. The new president will also take office without a permanent constitution to define his powers or duties. A 100-member constitutional assembly appointed by parliament and including dozens of lawmakers may also be dissolved. And in any event the ruling generals are expected to issue their own interim charters during the drafting.

Electing a president without either a constitution or a parliament was like "steering an 'unpower' with more power than the deposed dictator. A travesty," Mohamed ElBaradei, the Nobel Prize-winning diplomat and former presidential candidate, said in a comment online. New York Times News Service

The ruling, which effectively annulled the results of the June 16-17 runoff between Shafik and Mohamed Morsi, the candidate of the Muslim Brotherhood, was the culmination of a series of moves by the military council that have raised fears that the generals, who ruled Egypt for decades, have no intention of relinquishing power. Many analysts and activists said on Thursday that they feared the decision was a step toward reestablishing a military-backed authoritarian state, though it was not yet clear whether the military leadership was willing to risk a new outbreak of unrest by suppressing the country's most powerful political forces.

The decision came mainly quietly on Thursday as organizers disputed the rulings. Activists moved to plan a response, and some groups announced plans for a major demonstration on Friday night.

The military rulers did not issue a statement on the court's decision. But the website of the state newspaper Al Ahram reported that the generals said the presidential runoff would still take place on schedule.

"From a democratic perspective, what is the decision? It's outcome is laughable," said Shadi Hamid, research director of the Brookings Doha Center. "This is an all-out power grab by the military."

The timing of the ruling seemed like a transparent attempt to undercut the Islamists just two days before Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood is set to compete in the runoff against Ahmed Shafik, a former air force general and Mubarak's last prime minister.

The screen soon merely quiet on Thursday as organizers disputed the rulings. Activists moved to plan a response, and some groups announced plans for a major demonstration on Friday night.

The military rulers did not issue a statement on the court's decision. But the website of the state newspaper Al Ahram reported that the generals said the presidential runoff would still take place on schedule.

"From a democratic perspective, what is the decision? It's outcome is laughable," said Shadi Hamid, research director of the Brookings Doha Center. "This is an all-out power grab by the military."

The timing of the ruling seemed like a transparent attempt to undercut the Islamists just two days before Mohamed Morsi of the Muslim Brotherhood is set to compete in the runoff against Ahmed Shafik, a former air force general and Mubarak's last prime minister.

World prepares for Greece elections

WASHINGTON/BRUSSELS—Central banks from major economies stand ready to take steps, including coordinated action, to stabilize markets as world economies prepare for a possible financial storm or public unrest after declaring an election in Greece this weekend.

Officials from the G20 nations, whose leaders are meeting in Mexico next week, said that central banks were ready to take steps to stabilize financial markets—it would flood its banking system with cash as the euro zone's crisis runs a "black cloud" over the nation's economy.

Officials from the G20 nations, whose leaders are meeting in Mexico next week, said that central banks were ready to take steps to stabilize financial markets—if needed—by providing liquidity and prevent any credit squeeze after Sunday's election.

Canada is "ready to act" if the situation takes a serious turn for the worse or there is "an external shock," Finance Minister Jim Flaherty told reporters for Prime Minister Stephen Harper, said on Thursday.

The Bank of Japan left policy unchanged on Friday following a two-day meeting, keeping its financial firepower in reserve in case it is needed after the Greek election. China and India are both working on contingency plans, officials and sources said last week.

In Europe, another rare case had plans in place, including rumors such as if Greeks emptied their bank accounts should the Syriza party, which has promised to tear up the country's bailout deal with the EU and the IMF, come a decisive victory on Sunday.

Syriza leader Alexis Tsipras said the recommendations dealt with Greece's international lenders, which has helped to push the economy into a depression, would soon be history the weekend.

"The economic ruin of bankruptcy will belong to the past on Monday," Tsipras, who has rapidly emerged from fringe politics to challenge the mainstream for power, told a rally in Athens.

However, French President Francois Hollande warned Greek voters about seeking what Tsipras has promised—a better deal—while ditching the 130 billion euro bailout deal sealed earlier this year and he demands for painful austerity policies.

Hollande said on Greek TV that he wanted the country to stay in the euro, rather than reviving its drachma currency.

"But I have to say to them, because I am a friend of Greece, that if the impression is given that Greece wants to distance itself from its commitments and abandon all prospect of recovery, there will be countries in the euro zone which will prefer to break with the presence of Greece in the euro zone," he said.

Syriza is running neck-and-neck with the mainstream conservatives for Sunday's parliamentary vote, a series of an election last month that produced a stalemate. Reuters

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PACU Celebrates 80th Anniversary

The Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACU) is celebrating its 80th Anniversary this year. According to Peter Laurel, PACU President, the celebration will be held at Oakwood Premier Hotel on June 16, 2012 and will carry the theme " The Challenges of Internationalization," linking with K-12.

Besides effort of government to elevate the education system to the global 12-year standard, and RSSAK 2015, which seeks to facilitate the free flow of services and work towards recognition of professional qualifications and full movement and alternate duration with a view to facilitate movement within the region.

The conference speakers are Ms. Kim Wee, Senior Education Advisor, AusAID and Engr. Lydia G. Tandoran, Professorial Lecturer, UST Graduate School.

The celebration will also feature the 2012 PACU Person of the Year Award, the launching of the 80th Anniversary Commemorative Book and the general membership meeting and board election.

Laurel said that PACU, founded in 1932, is the oldest educational association in the country. The association has continuously sustained and defended its principles and vision of quality education and academic freedom, he added.

Member schools may contact the PACU secretariat at +6126386635 for reservations and inquiries.

CATHOLIC MEDIA JOINS RITEMED CAMPAIGN

RiteMed, the leading undercoated line of medicines in the country, starts another milestone with Right to Health campaign. The company forged a partnership with the Catholic Media Network (CMN) to increase awareness of the Filipinos' right to health. The collaboration includes a nationwide program that will reach out to various sectors of the society to enable access to quality and affordable healthcare. Recently, CMN launched a radio program in cooperation with the International Co-Production of the Deutsche Welle of Bonn Germany regarding the health situation in the Philippines. The network believes that Filipinos should consider health as a priority. Photo shows (from left) Ariel Ayala, CMN's Chief Mass Auditor; Marcelino A. Sabat, Sales and Marketing Head of RiteMed; Fr. Francis Lucas, CMN's President and Chief Executive Officer and Jose Maria A. Ochave, Senior Vice President of United Laboratories, Inc.

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Editor Raul G. Marcelo • Assistant Editor Corrie S. Mariano

BUSINESS

OFW remittances hit $1.7B in April

INDICATORS
PESO-DOLLAR RATE
42.260
STOCK MARKET
90.22

BSP says inflows in first four months up 5.4% at $6.5B

By Ronnel W. Domingo

REMITTANCES from overseas-based Filipinos reached $1.7 billion in April, up 5.3 percent from $1.62 billion in the same month last year.

This brought the inflows for January to April to $6.5 billion, which was 5.4 percent higher than the $6.2 billion seen in the same period of 2011.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said in a statement that the four-month number was on the back of higher remittances from both sea-based and land-based workers. Remittances from the former grew 14.6 percent to $1.3 billion while those from the latter rose 2.6 percent to $5 billion.

CONTINUED ON B2

Electricity prices to rise in August

By Amy R. Remo

ENERGY Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras yesterday warned consumers to brace for a power rate increase in electricity prices in succeeding months due to the planned nine-day maintenance shutdown next month of the Malampaya gas field of Palawan.

In a briefing yesterday, Almendras explained that the three natural gas-fired power plants in Batangas, which rely solely from the Malampaya field, would have to use the more expensive liquid condensates to sustain continued operation during the shutdown.

The 1,200-megawatt (Mw), 1,000-MW and 500-MW San Lorenzo gas plants generate 40 percent of the power requirements of the Luzon grid.

"Electricity prices may increase in August because the fuel mix will change during that period. We

PLDT sees core earnings easing to ₱37B in 2012

MVP: Traditional telcos becoming obsolete

By Paolo G. Montecillo

MAKATI—Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. (PLDT) is striking to its profit forecast for the year despite losing market share to rival Globe Telecom and spending additional cash from its integration with Sun Cellular.

PLDT chair Manuel V. Pangilinan said the company would hit the bottom of its profit slowdown this year with core earnings expected to slump to ₱37 billion—lower than last year's ₱39 billion.

"We're sticking to that target and it looks like it's going to happen," Pangilinan told reporters last Thursday.

At the sidelines of the company's shareholders' meeting, Pangilinan said the company would likely end the second quarter with around ₱9.2 billion in core profit, which sets out more room this quarter or however.

Pangilinan reiterated the need for the company to transform from a basic utility company that provides phone and Internet access to a multimedia conglomerate that delivers content-heavy and rich content across several platforms—from television to mobile phones.

He said telcos that do not evolve would continue to see thinner margins due to competition from Internet messaging services on sites like Facebook.com and Skype.com.

"How to blend the voice reality aspect with the creative part of social media is a big challenge. Nobody has been successful yet," Pangilinan said. "Traditional telcos are becoming obsolete."

The official said the integration of Sun Cellular's operations this PLDT's has started to contribute positively to the company's revenue stream—albeit not as substantially as the company first thought.

Sun Cellular is the mobile brand of Digitel Telecommunications Philippines, which PLDT acquired from the Gokongwei family last October.

"I admit, the integration is taking more time than we thought it would initially," Pangilinan said. "But it's moving toward the positive side already," he said.

Despite the slowdown PLDT's earnings, Pangilinan said subscribers of Sun Cellular have started to feel the benefits of being part of a bigger network.

"They have more extensive coverage now and their service is improving," Pangilinan said.

By next year, he said PLDT's profit would start growing again and by 2014, earnings would be back at its peak level of ₱42 billion. PLDT's profits reached ₱42 billion in 2010—the highest in the company's history.

Megaworld bullish on income growth

PROPERTY developer Megaworld Corp. reports on pace a double-digit growth in net income in 2012 given the strong residential condominium sales and the continued expansion of its retail and commercial rental revenues.

Megaworld president Kingson Sian said that in the first six months alone, the company would have launched eleven projects that is 46% of the whole of last year.

"Our income may vary from quarter to quarter, but the overall direction is that we're still double-digit growth," Sian told reporters at the sidelines of the company's shareholders' meeting yesterday.

Megaworld's first-quarter net income reached ₱1.28 billion, up 27 percent year-on-year.

Megaworld's performance was fuelled by strong sales from its residential projects in Newport City, McKinley West, McKinley Hill and Eastwood City as well as strong leasing income from its BPO and retail portfolio.

Sian said the company was unfazed by debt problems in Europe, which some analysts expect to affect investor flows from overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). Remittances are seen as a strong driver of domestic spending and real estate sales.

"For the past five years, we have grown by double digits every year, crisis or not. I wouldn't say that our business model is crisis proof, but I think this shows that we are resilient," Sian said.

He said Megaworld's unique proposition was that it develops "communities," not just stand-alone residential towers. One such community is Eastwood City in Libis, Quezon City. Other mini-cities included McKinley Hill in Taguig City and Newport City in Pasay. "That's a major differentiation for us," Sian said.

He said the company would end the first half of the year launching 11 new residential projects launched. This would be higher than the total of eight projects started in 2011.

This would help drive up reservation sales to as high as ₱15 billion for the year.

Apart from residential sales, Sian said Megaworld would also benefit from the growth in its rental revenues, boosted mainly by the opening of the new Lucky Chinatown mall in Manila.

From ₱1.6 billion in 2011, Sian said rental revenues would likely grow to ₱1 billion by year's end. Paolo G. Montecillo

Main stock index falls below 5,000

By Paolo G. Montecillo

THE benchmark Philippine Stock Exchange index (PSEi) closed at 4,998.65 points, down 1.8 percent or 91.22 points. The broader all-shares index was also lower by 2.19 percent as all sub-indices closed in the red.

The decline was led by the mining and oil sector, which posted a drop of 3.72 percent. This was after Manila Peninsular Corp. shed 5.3 percent to close at ₱91.80 a share.

Its parent company Atlantic Equity Ventures (AEV) was the day's most actively traded stock, with 8.6 million in the list of biggest losers after losing 6.31 percent to close at ₱45.15 a share.

Other big losers in the list of blue chips were Globe Telecom, which fell 1.36 percent; Universal Robina Corp., down 4.08 percent; and Manila Water Corp., lower by 3.7 percent.

The 47 advancers were outnumbered by more than two to one by the day's 140 decliners. Another 47 shares were unchanged.

Trading volume was robust with 2.02 billion shares changing hands at ₱6.27 billion.

Adding on the gloomy news from abroad, share prices were in a mode as 38 points in early trading before falling in the afternoon session.

"The action is reflective of the general unease investors have taken in the last couple of weeks. Everyone has opted to stay at the sidelines, awaiting for more clarity and proof that the global recovery will be able to withstand the threats posed by Europe's situation," local brokerage Accord Capital said in a note to clients.

OFW remittances hit $1.7B in April

From page B1

In terms of territories from where the funds were sent through banks, the top 10 sources were the United States, Canada, Saudi Arabia, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United Arab Emirates, Singapore, Italy, Germany and Hong Kong.

The BSP said dollars were remitted due to the steady demand for Filipino workers abroad as well as the expanded access of overseas Filipinos and their beneficiaries "to a diverse and innovative range of financial products and services offered by banks and other financial institutions."

Citing preliminary data obtained from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, the BSP said workers classified as new hires with processed contracts and rehiring/renewing deployment rose 16.5 percent to 85,689 for the period January-February 2012 from 72,941 in the same months last year.

For January to May, approved job orders totaled 134,945, of which about a third or 50,644 consisted of processed job orders for service, professional, technical and production and related workers. These workers were recruited for deployment to Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Taiwan, Singapore and Hong Kong.

"Increased inflows of overseas Filipino workers remittance were also made possible by the continued expansion of banks' presence across the globe through its ups established by local financial institutions with foreign and local currency transfer operations, and banks' phone service agreements and partnerships," the BSP said.

The BSP yesterday started computing remittance inflows in line with the International Monetary Fund's Balance of Payments and International Investment Position Manual, 6th edition (BPM6).

BMP6 provides the framework for the compilation of the balance of payments and provides guidance on the recording of cross-border transactions and positions according to a set of internationally agreed guidelines.

Electricity prices to rise in August

From page B1

expect spot prices to be affected. This is a free market. If you shut down cheap power generation and replace it with an expensive generation, [consumers] have to pay for that," Almendras said.

The cost of generating power during a certain month is often reflected on a consumer's electricity bill the following month.

The upside in the situation, according to Almendras, was that Luzon would be assured of adequate power supply despite the Malampaya shutdown.

"We have prepared all the generating plants that will take up the load that will be shed by the interruption. Although those gas-fired plants in Batangas, which generate a total of 2,700 MW for the Luzon grid, are run on distillate fuel," Almendras said.

"We've been planning for this so if there is a hiccup[ed], that means that something that was not supposed to happen, happened. We'll be on green alert because we do not expect all these gas plants to be dispatched. They will still generate, but using the cycle distillate," he added.

The Department of Energy at the Malacañang field last weekend was expected to have only a minimal impact on electricity prices in July. A slight increase is expected since the outage limited San Gabriel—Sual and Ilijan 2 combined with cheaper electricity consumption was much lower compared to weekdays.

Consumers, however, could look forward to a likely billbreak in fuel prices next month as prices in the global market continue to soften this week, according to Almendras.

Based on estimates made by Banko's Petroleum, chair Fernando Martinez, oil companies might cut prices of diesel by 30 centavos a liter and of gasoline by 60 centavos a liter.

"We are hopeful that [oil prices continue] to go down. In the international market, but it should not stop us from preparing for the time that it will go up again. We are now in the level of 2008 prices—we are even cheaper than the cheap rate of 2008. While Cusi's tenure panel, the question is how long it will last," Almendras said.

Villar firm invests ₱1.8B in Kingking gold project

By Rica T. Didizanlo

MVIT stockholders of Narra-metic Development Corp. (Nadecor) recently affirmed the board of directors' acceptance of a ₱1.8 billion investment from the Villar Group into the Kingking copper-gold project in Compostela Valley and the cancellation of an agreement with Sagittarius Gold and Copper Ltd. (SAGCL).

Nadecor, whose two groups have fought over management control, holds a mineral production sharing agreement (MPSA) for Kingking.

Nadecor said on a statement that during a meeting on June 14, its shareholders ratified the sale of the company's inbound outstanding shares to the Villar Group's Quezonwhere Mining and Development Corp.

The Villar firm holds a second 30-mil-

Nadecor terminates deal with Cayman Islands company

lion common shares in Nadecor worth ₱1.8 billion, representing 2.6 percent of Nadecor's outstanding capital stock.

Also, the majority of Nadecor's stockholders affirmed the board's resolution to commit to memorandum of understanding (MOU) with SAGCL, a mining firm based in the Cayman Islands, citing "breaches and violations" that resulted in their parting of ways.

During the same meeting, the new members of Nadecor's board of directors were nominated: Jose G. Bicaldo, Paulo A. Villar, Ma. Helen R. Cadang, Jose B. de Jesus, Victor P. Lazatin, Teresita E. Bernardino, Antonio A. Herrera, Federico C. Ingmond, and Angel L. Ong.

"We can now proceed with developing the Kingking mine site, and therefore forward to large scale production has a substantial output to match the demand for copper and gold by global markets," said Bicaldo, who represented the group that held the controlling stake in the company.

The stockholders' meeting was marred by the walkout of Gerardo Calalang's group, which held a substantial stake in Nadecor.

Bicaldo said Bicaldo's group tried to lure the Calalang's group, which reportedly financed the deal with SAGCL. With problems left unresolved, Calalang's group decided to walk out of the meeting, Nadecor said.

Nadecor is the holder of MPSA 000-10-XI covering 1,656 hectares. The mining site is said to contain 16.3 million ounces of gold and 5.4 billion pounds of copper.

The mining area is in Barangay Kingking, municipality of Pantukan, Compostela Valley to Mindanao—92 kilometers southeast of Davao City.

Factory output up 5.5% in April

MANUFACTURING output in April increased by 5.5 percent, with six sectors driving growth, the National Statistics Office (NSO) said in its Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries (MISSI)'s report.

The growth rate was more subdued than the 8.2 percent reported in March and 6.1 percent in February, but it was well above the 1.2 percent growth observed in January following contractions in the last quarter of 2011.

However, Benjamin U. Diokno of the ING School of Economics said that, based on the fast growth beyond reported in the second and third quarters of last year, factory output in the next six months could slow down because of base effect.

At the same time, Diokno said, a strong rebound would be "unlikely" due to the gloomier global economic outlook.

"A strong government response a favorable to push up the domestic economy but the likelihood that a strong stimulus would be put in place is practically nil. At the first place, the economic managers are convinced, falsely I think, that the economy a strong. Second, public policy wants with a big, albeit timid with a long leg," Diokno explained via e-mail.

Manufacturing growth is seen to hold well for the economy since many of the exports industries are tied to manufacturing, according to the National Economic and Development Authority.

The manufacturing sector is also seen as a job generator that can help spread the benefits of economic expansion.

The Philippines is targeting an average annual growth rate of 7 to 8 percent from 2011 to 2016 in order to curb poverty and raise the income of many Filipinos.

According to the NSO report, which was based on its web site, its major sectors drove up manufacturing output in April: furniture and fixtures (up by 239.6 percent), publishing and printing (131.5 percent), footwear and wearing apparel (106.9 percent), wood and wood products (40.6 percent), leather products (31.7 percent), and chemical products (12.7 percent).

Average capacity utilization in April stood at 63.4 percent.

Twelve of the 20 major sectors registered capacity utilization rates of 80 percent or more. Food manufacturing (which utilized 91.2 percent of capacity), petroleum products (87 percent), basic metals (86.6 percent), non-metallic mineral products (86.6 percent), electrical machinery (86.6 percent), rubber and plastic products (81.3 percent), chemical products (81.3 percent), transport equipment (factory (81.6 percent), machinery except electrical (82.6 percent), paper and paper products (81.1 percent), publishing and printing (81 percent), and wood and wood products (80 percent).

The operation of establishments that operated at full capacity (98 to 100 percent) stood at 11 percent in April. About 56.2 percent of the establishments operated at 70 to 90 percent capacity, while 22.8 percent of the establishments operated below 70 percent capacity.

The NSO said that the Monthly Integrated Survey of Selected Industries report is one of the designated statistical activities undertaken to provide flash indicators on the performance of industries in the manufacturing sector. The survey gathers monthly data on employment, compensation, production, net sales, inventories and capacity utilization. Rica T. Didizanlo

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Rosalinda Tiangco-Alindogan

(August 25, 1953 – June 16, 2004)

Holy Masses will be offered today, June 16, 2012 at the following churches:

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Dumaliton Place, Magallanes Village, Makati City	6:30 AM 12:10 NN 6:00 PM	St. Pius X Church 2320 13th Ave., West Woodside Terrace, Washington 98061	5:00 PM
Sanctuario de San Antonio — Friary McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City	5:15 AM 7:30 AM 12:10 NN 5:00 PM	Church of the Assumption 215 Cornwall Ave., Bellingham, Washington 98225	5:00 PM
Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Parish 4006 Bougainvillea Road, Sun Valley Subd., Parañaque City	6:30 AM 6:00 PM	Saint John The Evangelist Catholic Church 1001 Riverside Boulevard, Sacramento, California 95814-2828	8:00 AM
Sto. Niño de Pax Chapel Greenhall, Ayala Center, Makati City	12:10 NN 4:30 PM 6:00 PM	St. Philomena Roman Catholic Church 180 South Livingston Ave., Livingston, New Jersey 07039	10:00 AM

Please remember her in your prayers.

CECILIA "CECIL" LARA-VALBUENA

of Antipolo City & Project 7, Quezon City

peacefully joined our Lord on June 15, 2012 at the age of 58.

Her remains lie in state at St. Peter Memorial Chapels, Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

Her husband, Boy & children Richard & Ian, Cathe & Bryson, Tina & Nikki, her father Lara, brothers & sisters & relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

GODOFREDO "GODING" C. VILLANUEVA

Retiree of Manufacturing Unitad Laboratories, Inc.

Peacefully joined his Creator on June 12, 2012 at the age of 69.

His body lies in state at his residence in 4414 Palitubo, Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

Interment will be on June 17, 2:00 P.M. at Garden of Peace Cemetery, Bagumbayan, Sta. Cruz, Laguna.

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INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SUPPLY OF MATERIALS FOR THE PNOY SITIO ELECTRIFICATION PROJECTS

Tarlac I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (TARELCO I) invites eligible bidders to bid for the supply of materials for the 2012 PNOY Sitio Electrification Projects.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased, starting June 18, 2012 until 2 pm of June 22, 2012 by eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5, 000.00).

Interested eligible bidders may inspect the bidding documents and/or obtain a copy at the office of the BAC, TARELCO I, Amacalan, Gerona, Tarlac. For further information, please contact Ms. Mary O. Dalfo, BAC Secretariat at Tel. No. (045)491-0870 loc. 111. Pre-bid Conference will be held on June 22, 2012, Friday 2 P.M. at the TARELCO I Board Room also of the same address.

Sealed proposals in two (2) copies must be received by the BAC at the TARELCO I office not later than 2 P.M. of June 22, 2012 at which time and place the said proposal will be opened and read in the presence of Bidders or Bidders' representative who chooses to attend. Late submission of sealed bid will not be considered or accepted.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the total Bid Price.

TARELCO I hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects therein, and accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Cooperative.

BAC Chairman
TARELCO I

Philippine Australia Human Resources and Organizational Development Facility

Monitoring & Evaluation Adviser

- 12 month contract with possibility of extension
- Start date in July 2012
- Based in Ortigas, Manila – Philippines

The Program

The Philippine Australia Human Resources and Organizational Development Facility (PHAHRODF) is a five-year (2011-2016), AusAID funded program that seeks to enhance the effectiveness of government programs and reforms supported under the Australia Philippines Development Assistance Strategy (DAS).

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The Facility is currently seeking applications for the position of Monitoring & Evaluation Adviser to join its highly skilled and dynamic team.

The Position

The Monitoring and Evaluation Adviser will be responsible for the updating and implementation of the Facility's monitoring and evaluation framework, systems and processes and ensuring that the M&E system complies with GoP reporting requirements. The M&E Adviser will engage team members in various training in M&E and will provide training and coaching activities to partner organizations.

To be successful for this position, applicants will be degree qualified and will need to demonstrate relevant experience in monitoring and implementing M&E frameworks, in donor assisted programs, preferably in the context of human resource / organizational development activities. An understanding of Government of Philippines M&E systems will be required as well as an understanding of cross cutting development themes such as gender and disability equity.

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How to apply

For further information and to apply for this position, please visit our website at www.coffey.com and search on the reference number COFF-4855.

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The BAC will use a non-discretionary pass/fail criteria to rate the eligibility and responsibility of prospective bidders to participate in the bidding. The BAC will conduct Post-Qualification of the Lowest Calculated Responsive Bid.

All participating bidders in eligibility, Submission and Reviewing Bid Documents, Pre-bid Conference, Pre-Qualification, Post-Qualification, Bid Opening, Award of Contract, shall be governed by the published guidelines of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

The schedule of bidding activities are as follows:

1. Advertisement/Publication of IAE	June 2012
2. Issuance of Bidding Documents	June 2012
3. Conference to Review Bidding Documents	June 2012
4. Pre-Bid Conference	June 2012
5. Post-Qualification	June 2012
6. Bid Opening	June 2012
7. Notice to Proceed	June 2012

The Bid Documents are available and may be purchased starting on the 1st day of the publication of the IAE at the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat, Philippine School of Marine Management Foundation, Pasay City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00.

The Philippine School of Marine Management Foundation reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects therein, and to accept the bid that is most advantageous to the Government.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that **LEDOR ADOL C. MENDOZA**, whose picture appears above, was validly dismissed for cause and is no longer connected with DAMEE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION.

Any transaction done through Mr. Mendoza will no longer be honored. Please report any unauthorized solicitation or activity to Mr. Mendoza or:

CHASE TECHNOLOGIES CORPORATION
Telephone Number: 317-8039 / 551-2340-42
E-mail: aalbert@chasetech.com

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
Bureau of Local Employment

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION(S) FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT(S) (AEP(S))

Notice is hereby given that the following company/employer have filed with this Regional Office application(s) for Alien Employment Permit(s).

Name and address of Company/ Employer	Name of Foreign National/ Citizenship	Position
PHILSTEEL INC.	Gerard Arnold Aiello / Australian	Vertical Installer
ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE CONSULTANTS (ECC), CEBU	Ashwaregsingh Hardeokumar / Indian	Project Consultant
EXCELLENT SERVICES CORPORATION	Louis Jacques Lemaitre / Indonesian	Customer Service Officer (Customer)
WELCOMG ACADEMY INC.	Mona Abo / Kuwait	President
BLACKWATER ENGINEERS & CONTRACTORS	Ben Alberg / Finland	Diver
SONY ELGROUP TRADING CO.	Inder Dev Verma / Indian	Finance Manager
HAN KONG CONST. CORP.	Yun Ming Hung / Taiwanese	Technical Consultant
SH DESIGNING & MANUFACTURING, INC.	Shinobu Kitazawa / Japanese	Advisor-Japanese Trainer
SH DESIGNING & MANUFACTURING, INC.	Tadaaki Kamigaki / Japanese	Technical Advisor
GOLDEN ASIA AUDIO PHIL., INC.	Eiji Fujikawa / Japanese	Consultant
GOLDEN ASIA AUDIO PHIL., INC.	Wan Chin Chi / Malaysian	Assistant Manager
HUIHENG CORP.	Wilson Tan Wei Kit / Malaysian	Area Business Manager
YEW TREE SERVICES, INC.	Kevin Todd Shattock / Australian	IT Development Manager
SUMITOMO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION	Yasuhiro Kitahara / Japanese	Vice President
SUMITOMO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION	Masanori Shimada / Japanese	Vice President for Electrical Design
SUMITOMO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION	Masashi Aoki / Japanese	Vice President Engineering Construction
SUMITOMO PHILIPPINES CORPORATION	Takeshi Ishihara / Japanese	Vice President for Mechanical Design

If you have any relevant information/objection on the above mentioned foreign applicant(s) to submit, please do so with this Regional Office(s).

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Republic of the Philippines
Department of Education
REGION VII-Central Visayas
DIVISION OF CEBU PROVINCE
Sudlon, Lahug, Cebu City

DepED

INVITATION TO BID

The Department of Education Division of Cebu Province intends to apply the sum of (Total Approved Budget for the Contract) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for (Project Title). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at the bid opening. Bidders should have completed, within (Period) from the date of submission and receipt of bids, a contract similar to the Project. The description of an eligible bidder is contained in the bid documents.

Lot(s)	School	Municipality	Terms of Delivery	ABC	Duration
1	Lapay (ES)	Bogo City	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
2	Lapay (NHS)	Bogo City	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
3	Mantalongon (NHS)	Dalaguete	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
4	Mantalongon (ES)	Dalaguete	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
5	Kalunasan (ES)	Dalaguete	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
6	Tubod (NHS)	Dalaguete	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
7	Tubod (ES)	Dalaguete	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
8	Bunga (NHS)	Dalaguete	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
9	Alub Elementary (ES)	Dalaguete	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
10	Asturias Sur Elementary (ES)	Asturias	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
11	Mantalongon (NHS)	Dalaguete	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
12	Mantalongon (NHS)	San Nicolas	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
13	Sudlon II, (NHS)	Cebu City	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
14	Cadulawan (NHS)	Santander/Samboan	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
15	Tupas (ES)	Liloan	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
16	Cogtong (NHS)	Carmen	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
17	Cansomoroy (NHS)	Compostela	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
18	Cansomoroy (NHS)	Compostela	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
19	Cogtong (NHS)	Carmen	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
20	Lugo (ES)	Carmen/Aloon	Cond. of DO's NTP, & TCC Provision	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
21	Lugo (NHS)	Carmen/Aloon	Cond. of DO's NTP, & TCC Provision	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
22	Anao (NHS)	Liloan	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
23	Dalagsahan (NHS)	Dalaguete	Cond. of Luminous & TCC	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
24	Cadiz (ES)	Liloan	Cond. of Luminous & TCC	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
25	Cadiz (NHS)	Liloan	Cond. of Luminous & TCC	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
26	Cansi (NHS)	Dalaguete	Cond. of DO's NTP	3,000,000.00	120 C.D.
27	Tabunan (ES)	San Fernando	Cond. of DO's	1,500,000.00	90 C.D.
28	Tabunan (ES)	San Fernando	Cond. of DO's	1,500,000.00	90 C.D.
29	Pitalo (ES)	San Fernando	Cond. of DO's	1,500,000.00	90 C.D.
30	Pitalo (ES)	San Fernando	Cond. of Luminous/Provisional	1,500,000.00	90 C.D.
31	Pitalo (NHS)	San Fernando	Cond. of Luminous/Provisional	1,500,000.00	90 C.D.
32	Tabunan (ES)	San Fernando	Cond. of Luminous/Provisional	1,500,000.00	90 C.D.
33	Tabunan (ES)	San Fernando	Cond. of Luminous/Provisional	1,500,000.00	90 C.D.
34	Tabunan (ES)	San Fernando	Cond. of Luminous/Provisional	1,500,000.00	90 C.D.

BUSINESS

BIR misses revenue goal for 3rd straight month

Power Situation Outlook
for Saturday, 16 June 2012

	Luzon	Visayas	Mindanao
Available Capacity (MW)	8,888	1,818	1,138
System Peak (MW)	6,582	1,368	1,191
Gross Reserve (MW)	1,506	448	-53

By Bernadette C. Damicog

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue collected P93.38 billion in May, falling short of its target for the third month in a row.

According to BIR data released yesterday, May collection was 9.3 percent, or P8.9 billion, lower than the P104.48-billion goal for set for the month.

On the other hand, last month's yield was 7.1 percent, or P6.4 billion, higher than the P86.16 billion collected in May 2011.

In May, tax collected was 9.3% below the target set

With the tax inflows in May, collections for the first five months of the year totaled P448.01 billion. The BIR missed its 5-month collection target of P458.96 billion by 4.3 percent, or P10.15 billion.

From then, revenues in the first five months was 12.7 percent, or P49.72 billion, higher than the P351.09 billion posted in the same period of 2011.

"Collections from the regional offices have consistently showed double-digit growth," the BIR said in a statement. "For the first five months, collections ... increased by 20.39 percent."

The BIR said that in May alone, regional offices turned in a total of P219.89 billion, 24.2 percent more than that of a year ago.

As for the Large Taxpayers Service, collections reached P63.17 billion, which was P1.21 billion, or 2 percent, more than the year-ago level.

The BIR said the LTS performance for the month was affected by a decrease in reported sales, and an increase in reported cost of sales and expenses by some taxpayers.

"In view of this, the BIR will be conducting short period audits on some of its large taxpayers to determine the veracity, accuracy and truth of the figures they reported," the agency said.

"This is in addition to the on-going monitoring by the regional offices of the tax compliance of sole proprietors and professionals."

DOE may roll out $500-M e-trike project

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Energy recently received the Monetary Board's approval to proceed with the rollout of the $500-million electric tricycle (e-trike) project, hoping to put 100,000 of these vehicles on Philippine roads within five years.

Of this allocation, $200 million will come from the Manila-based Asian Development Bank, $100 million from the Philippine government, and $100 million from the Clean Technology Fund (CTF).

In a briefing yesterday, Energy Secretary Jose Rene D. Almendras said the DOE would still pursue the project despite technical, financial and even social challenges, given the project's economic and "transformational" gains.

The replacement of 100,000 gasoline-fed tricycle units with energy efficient e-trikes is expected to help reduce the transport sector's gasoline consumption by 50.1 million barrels a year, equivalent to about 260,000 tons of carbon dioxide emissions annually.

The e-trike project is also expected to boost the income of tricycle drivers through savings in fuel costs and will likewise create local jobs with the establishment of manufacturing companies and associated after-sales services.

Citing these gains, Almendras denied the alleged reallocation of a $100 million loan from CTF, which was supposed to be used for a major solar generation initiative but was instead diverted to the e-trike project.

Based on a 2009 plan, a total of $125 million would be allocated for renewable energy and energy efficiency programs of the country that is the thrust of CTF investment. Plan for the Philippines, the amount was divided in $24 million for energy efficiency and $101 million for e-trikes.

"There can be no diversion of funds because the funds are not yet available back then (2009). We don't have it yet. The loans were not approved yet—the loan will be discussed sometime in June or July during the monthly board meeting of ADB," Almendras explained.

The energy chief also said that the e-trike project would push through with or without the CTF because the business model of the DOE and ADB was one that could avoid using commercial loans from local banks.

These banks, he added, are likely to fund such a project because the economic gains will be significant.

Rahul Kitchlu, urban and energy specialist at ADB, said that back in 2009, when the prices of solar power generation started to decline, the option for solar projects was included in the CTF plan.

The plan was to go back to CTF and present the options where the funds could be used two years after 2009, or around December 2011. By that time however, the scenario had changed, said Kitchlu, who added that the DOE and ADB both found the e-trike project to be a more feasible option since CTF funding could be used.

"There was no fund allocation in 2009, in the sense some because the funds were not yet approved or available," Kitchlu added.

Kitchlu earlier said that the pilot was to roll out the first 20,000 units on key islands, such as Boracay and Puerto Princesa, and in some parts of Metro Manila. After this, a study will be conducted to determine whether the use of e-trikes will work, according to the project objectives, and yield the benefits expected by the ADB and the Philippine government.

Once the initial batch proves to be successful, the ADB will then proceed with the rollout of the remaining 80,000 units, Hamm said.

At present, more than 2.5 million motorized tricycles are operating in the country, producing more than 18 million tons of carbon dioxide and using nearly 85 billion worth of imported fuel a year.

Editor Cesar D. Mangosing
PROPERTY

Expat population spurs demand for posh condos

By Tess R. Salazar

NOT EVERY story behind luxury condominiums is about a controversial, high-ranking government official. Amid all the drama the past few months brought about by the impeachment of the Chief Justice, the luxury residential market has been brought to public attention.

But the overlooked fact is that this market has become the notables sector of the real estate industry for some time now. Looking at the robust growth more closely, one can see that the expatriate population in the Philippines has spurred the demand for luxury condominium units.

According to property consultant CB Richard Ellis' First Quarter 2012 MarketView Metro Manila, the expatriate population is still growing, as there has been no let up in the entry and expansion of outsourcing and offshoring companies.

"The expansion of multinational companies due to the favorable macroeconomic situation is likewise contributing to the inflow of expatriates. Because of the consistent growth in the expatriate population, the demand for housing remains strong," the report said.

Alien registration

The Bureau of Immigration's alien registration division's statement in March indicates that more than 65,155 foreign nationals residing in the Philippines filed their annual reports this year (higher by 5,125, or 8.55 percent, than the number that filed last year; the government earned more than P10.5 million in fees paid by aliens who filed their reports this year).

The report added that while investor demand has been increasing, transactions continue to be concentrated on lease as an supply of luxury condominiums remains tight.

"In addition, luxury condominiums are facing strong competition from newer Grade A condominiums. Demand for units at the Pacific Plaza Towers was also affected by the adjacent construction, which is blocking the view of several of its units. Capital values of luxury condominiums, however, were maintained in the first quarter of the year."

Newer Grade A buildings and newly renovated houses are seen by expatriates as an alternative to luxury condominiums. Because of leasing competition, rents were maintained in the first quarter of 2012. Unit owners have also been wary of increasing rents as they are aware of the limits on expatriate housing budgets.

Luxury residential condominium statistics disclosed in the report showed

(MORE B8.)

ROCKWELL Center is expats' haven

'Father of construction' continues to build with passion

By Theresa S. Sanmadrigo

DAVID M. CONSUNJI is a "builder" first and foremost.

Although the 90-year-old construction magnate has successfully made a mark in the local real estate industry that he is now heralded as the father of contemporary construction industry, Consunji continues to stress that he is a builder, who derives satisfaction not from making money out of his projects, but from putting up structures and real things that translate real benefits to ordinary people.

It was this passion that enabled Consunji to give the Philippine construction business a whole new meaning, transforming the industry from being just an occupation or a livelihood to a passion, nothing less.

"One must love his work and be proud of it, and this, combined with hard work, will drive him to achieve skills and work quality," says Consunji in an exclusive interview with Inquirer Property.

BUILDERS AND MOVERS

Consunji Inc., and the rest, as they say, is history.

In 1961 Consunji Inc. was then at the forefront of shaping the Makati Central Business District since the 60s, building the old Mandarin Apartments, the Hotel Theater, and Town One and Executive Plaza. The company also built the Shangri-La Hotels in Makati, Manila and Boracay, Manila Hotel, The Westin Philippine Plaza, the Asian Hospital Medical Center, among other distinct landmarks.

City skyline and landscape

The company further redefined the city skyline and landscape, when DMCI constructed the Ortigas Center financial district, the South Metro Manila Skyway, LRT 1 North Extension, Tollo Expressway-La Union Toll Expressway, DMCI even had the privilege to flaunt its expertise in foreign shores by building monumental projects like the Incheon Grand Bridge in Korea.

The enterprising visionary in Consunji led to successful joint ventures and forays in other sectors, including its partnership with Metro Pacific Investments Corp. for the Maynilad Water Services Inc., the west zone water concessionaire in Metro Manila.

Its mining affiliates, the Semirara Mining Corp., is the largest coal mining and exploration company in the country, while DMCI Mining Corp. is actively engaged in on-and-mineral mining and exploration.

DMCI Power Corp. is responsible engaged in the design, construction, investments and operation of power plants, operating subsidiaries, namely the Sem-Calaca Power Corp. and the Bulacan Power Corp., which began operations in 2010.

DMCI Homes, established over a decade ago, has already dominated its category of resort-inspired residences. The company has also successfully expanded its portfolio to include house and lots, and high-rise condominium units.

Consunji's accomplishments

The successes now will being enjoyed by DMCI and all its subsidiaries and affiliates, indeed mark highs of the accomplishments of Consunji, who have poured all his passion in the art of building these landmarks and structures and building up people's own successes.

And his accomplishments did not go unnoticed as the visionary founder earned various accolades from the construction and engineering sectors both here and abroad.

Among his citations were "Outstanding Philippine Construction Industry" presented by the Philippine Construction Association, as "Honorary Fellow" of the Philippine Institute of Environmental Planners, as "Alumni Awardee" conferred by the International Federation of Asian and Western Pacific Contractors' Associations, a University of the Philippines Alumni Association "Lifetime Distinguished Achievement Awardee, and "The Outstanding Filipino Awardee" (TOAF) from the Philippine Jaycees Senate (and The Insular Life Assurance Co.

The key to his success is no secret, for Consunji would squirm no end that many different elements that make a structure and sound structure would include extensive and deep, hard work, honesty and dedication.

"Property development is a lifelong venture into the future of land use and consideration. Skills and integrity plays an important role. (But) me, a quality structure is something to be admired and viewed from. The quality structures that are build serve as indestructible struggle of humanity for better (structure)," Consunji says.

"I would like to feel that somehow DMCI has been one of those who improved our standards of project completion through improved quality. I was hopeful that DMCI shall be remembered as among the builders who contributed to the quality of our structures," he concludes.

THE CHURCH of the Holy Sacrifice was completed by DMCI in the mid-'70s.

THE COCA-COLA plant in Tarlac is Consunji's first big project.

Consunji dedicated father, inspiring mentor

By Theresa S. Sanmadrigo

THE LEGACY of David M. Consunji lies not only in the number of structures and land tracts he had built over the past few decades, but more so in the way he has touched and inspired people he met along the way.

While many would regard him as a construction magnate who has set parallelism contribution in the local real estate industry and hews true himself with countless accolades, Consunji is also regarded by the people around him as a dedicated family man and an inspiring mentor.

For those people, another kind of recognition ranked highly on Consunji's mount: an "Outstanding Father" not only to his children but also the people who travel with him.

"He must possess is to build, that which he will show today" says Rebecca Consunji of her father, in an interview with the Inquirer.

The younger Consunji admits that she cannot imagine her dad, who just turned 90 on June 2 last year, not being in the business as her constantly heeds one of the largest Philippine construction companies, DM Consunji Inc., which started over 50 years ago.

Being taught all 'essentials'

According to Rebecca, she and her siblings grew up being taught all the "essentials", to "work hard at whatever we do, to treat our words as our true bars, but doing it for a long time, to work together, with others because we live in a community with responsibilities."

"(Dad) also taught us to value our names because that means we are your name (but your) duty, to deliver consistently your words on your names, and foremost, to recognize that there is a supreme being, God, governing us all and to live a life of a Catholic," Rebecca adds.

Jesus Ed Palmes, who currently serves as EVP for DMCI, echoes the same sentiments as Rebecca, as he never lose Consunji his gentle influence and shaped his personal and professional life over the past 16 years.

"He is an idol. He's like a father to me," Palmes quips.

"I was impressed to how Mr. Consunji works and thinks even under pressure. He is a man of principles having the sound basics in the business. He is a believer that a crisis brings out the best in every person. The integrity of every structure that he gives his client, is the cheapest foundation of his business," Palmes says.

Aside from Palmes, Bing Palmes, secretary of Consunji, is the construction magnate's willingness to learn and accept criticisms with an open mind and heart. And one of the greatest lessons he learned from his mentor, according to Palmes, was that hard work truly pays off. As Consunji's favorite maxim goes, "Kung may tiyaga, may nilaga."

And just like any father, Consunji, according to Rebecca, gets upset whenever his dispersed and beloved children gets hurt, but one who also celebrates these moments, which he has devoted solely for his right kids.

A very high achiever

"My father is a very high achiever in every way and so, for him high expectations from all of us, in every way also. He tries to be fair to all of us as best he can. He makes time to be with us. He makes sure that we can learn from him by being a great example that he can be for us," Rebecca recalls.

"My father allows us to be ourselves to a certain extend, so every now in a while as years has it, we would fail. When we failed, he was strong and would always help us get back from our mistakes," she further notes.

Rebecca even recalls of the time she went out of town with her father, coughing it out in his frozen barn, as in the hopping area. They took long car rides to Baguio or elsewhere that she missed like no endless ride to her at that time.

"As children, we always learned to greet father and raised to bring him his pair of slippers. We all looked forward to greet him as he walked into the house. I enjoyed my bonds (time) with Dad. To get a home-cooked meals of, so would take turns getting on his lap and he would shake his leg pretending we were riding a horse. And if we failed in to our runs in our tasks, God and, we would arrive safely and so on and on he always found time for us."

On a lighter note, Rebecca says it's not always about serious talk for his father, when the says he also shares other interests that include reading books, swimming, exercising, golfing, geography, traveling, people and their culture, agriculture and politics.

"He makes sure he get out of what he is doing when the pressure is too much. He would go out of town, when possible, or just do something different. His interests are varied to it keeps his mind fresh, determination and stays it so well," she adds.

Another family member, Jorge A. Consunji, agrees about the strength of character that Consunji has been known for.

"My family and I would always admire him for the love he extended to us, and we continue to do so. His inspiration has transformed DMCI personnel into people that have dedication to work, care for the company, commitment to clients, and integrity," Jorge adds.

AN OUTSTANDING FATHER Consunji with wife, children and grandchildren

Expat population spurs demand for posh condos

BONIFACIO Global City is where expats station.

Sensible developments that foster lifetime of love, togetherness

By Theresa S. Sumalinog

AFTER THE wedding bells have been rung and the I Do's have been exchanged, couples now need to focus on more practical matters—like finding a house to a condominium unit, for instance.

This is why for the month of June, said to be the most preferred time for weddings, Inquirer Property will be featuring in its "Condo Hunt" series developments that newlyweds might want to consider in their begin their journey to a lifetime of love and togetherness.

This week, we are showcasing 4 different projects by Robinsons Land Corp. (RLC) that you may find suitable considering your location, budget and lifestyle, depending on your needs and wishes. Here are some of RLC developments that are equipped with all the right stuff—from design to amenities—that would help to help couples keep the flair of love burning.

1 The Trion Towers. This three-tower project sits on a one-hectare lot on Rajah Avenue cor. McKinley Hickman and is one of the first Robinsons Residences projects located within the Bonifacio Global City.

With seat cats ranging from one- to three-bedroom flats, the Trion Towers will help couples customize their "honeymoon stage" suits its distinctive architectural design complemented by the project's well-thought amenities and prime location.

According to RLC, the Trion Towers features a fitness zone (spots and fitness area/deck, cabana), zone (pool and relaxation amenities) and an interactive zone (recreational amenities) that provides for efficient, relaxed and secure city living.

2 Avalon Place. This 20-story single-tower development, which is to rise in Ayala Avenue, promises to be a unique and full-glass windows, as well as the first three levels luxury retail outlets as its ground floor and is near the shopping malls and a variety of restaurants.

Couples and startup families will meanwhile have access to several lifestyle options right inside the building, including a game room, a 6-hour Wi-Fi lounge, fitness center, swimming pool, spa pool, a Japanese-inspired garden and reading nooks.

Each of the 407 units at the Avalon Place will also have an internet-ready, and connection amenities) and an interactive zone (recreational amenities) that provides efficient, relaxed and secure city living.

2 Avalon Place. This 20-story single-tower development, which is to rise in Ayala Avenue, promises to be a unique and full-glass windows, as well as the first three levels luxury retail outlets as its ground floor and is near the shopping malls and a variety of restaurants.

Couples and startup families will meanwhile have access to several lifestyle options right inside the building, including a game room, a 6-hour Wi-Fi lounge, fitness center, swimming pool, spa pool, a Japanese-inspired garden and reading nooks.

Each of the 407 units at the Avalon Place will also have an internet-ready, and connection amenities) and an interactive zone (recreational amenities) that provides efficient, relaxed and secure city living.

3 Gateway Regency. This 3-tower Regency on Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong City caters to young couples who cannot avoid being away from the urban zone, as this is strategically located within the Ortigas Center complex, within walking distance to the Robinsons Mall and other RLC residential condominiums, hotel and office buildings.

This 31-story project, which evokes a contemporary architectural design, provides its homeowners the convenience and comfort of living beside several areas, commercial establishments, offices and easy efficient transit hubs like the MRT. Its prime location also provides residents access to areas outside Metro Manila.

Like all RLC developments, it will feature amenities such as adult swimming pool, fitness center, landscaped gardens, hot/cold tubs, gazebos, reading area, Wi-Fi hotspots to ensure a relaxing yet exciting life for couples.

4 Magnolia Residences. The 3-tower Magnolia Residences, which is part of a five-hectare mixed-use residential commercial complex in New Manila, Quezon City, can provide newlyweds a friendly neighborhood ambiance that makes it truly ideal for a roaming a family.

Like most RLC developments, the Magnolia Residences provides world-class amenities such as a game room, fitness center, multipurpose room and library and allows residents proximity to commercial establishments, key road hubs, premier business districts, prominent educational institutions and major modes of transportation such as the LRT-2, thus making it all the more ideal for startup families.

Magnolia Residences has condominium units ranging from one bedroom (26 square meters) up to three bedroom (106.36 sq.m).

5 Woodsville Residences. As ultimate townhouses exclusive subdivision in Merville, Parañaque, Woodsville Residences can a similar function as mentioned RLC developments dubbed as Woodsville City.

This development showcases a small-gated community with wide open spaces for recreational activities that guarantees relaxed and more secure living conditions. It also features a complete list of amenities such as outdoors children's play area, adult and children's pool, gym, activity garden, al fresco lounge area and function room.

Woodsville Residences is also near luxurious districts in Makati and Bonifacio Global City and other important establishments, like hospitals, airports, educational institutions and offices.

WOODSVILLE Residences is RLC's exclusive townhouse enclave situated in Merville, Parañaque City.

THE MODERN Asian design of Avalon Place in Cebu makes it standout.

THE 32-STORY Gateway Regency evokes a contemporary architectural design.

RLC developments provide a wide array of stress-busting amenities.

THE TRION Towers, which is located at the bustling Bonifacio Global City, features a fitness zone (sports and fitness amenities), cabana (recreation amenities) and an interactive zone (recreational amenities).

VARIOUS experimentations with architectural forms have given rise to the use of other materials and other shapes to carry out the function of the roofs, as exemplified by the use of reinforced concrete ledges that either extend from a roof slab or parapet, or protrude out from the face of the wall, to accomplish the task of sun and rain protection. Awnings and additional roof areas located right above door and window openings do the job even better.

All about the eave

DESIGN DIMENSIONS

Isabel Berenguer Asuncion

I'VE ALWAYS equated it to some kind of sun visor, that open-faced roof cap that works like protective shield, buffering both rain and rain from hitting the face. The roof eave works quite the same way. Primarily designed to protect the walls, the roof eave is often so extended over/from surfaces away to act as a sun-off surface for sun, extending beyond a structure's roof line in order to prevent the seepage of water into the junction of the roof and wall. It is also termed as an "overhang."

Roof eaves were first used on gabled roofs, those very typical triangularly pitched roofs visible in almost all cultures and in the most ethnic or tribal or structures. From the very simple workings, it has evolved to perform many numerous functions, built from deterring off rainwater or snow, roof eaves protect the walls underneath from rain and damage, from rainwater runoff (and in snow-bothered lifeless lifestyles, from the daily water that will surely come naughtily streaking down our walls) and collects it into a trench more commonly known as a gutter.

The gutters in turn, trains the water into the ground through proper connection pipes, and keep it from pooling directly on to the floor or ground surfaces below. Rainwater emptying down from a roof will erode the natural ground or damage its hard-material paving.

In humid or wet climates, the eave overhangs can get rid of moisture and allow the wall to ventilate and adequately dry [particularly] find effective heating these zones in the basement caves/above the finished wall; and creates the pressure that will allow for the most air displacement.

Various experimentations

While eaves are inherently part of the roof, various experimentations with architectural forms have given rise to the use of other materials and other shapes to carry out the function of the eave. Embedded in the form of reinforced concrete ledges that either extend from a roof slab or parapet, or protrude out from the face of the wall, accomplish the task of sun and rain protection. They can also—other contemporary—function as a wall protector. Awnings and additional roof eaves located at least eight above door and window openings do the job even better.

The roof tiles are of roof finishings—overlapping layers of materials meant to seal off open connections—to protect the wall and roof joint from seepage, but unfortunately caused erosion due to use of smoking from cigarettes. Studies can finely catch materials not shielded the structure from the heat of the molecular rain.

I love the look of flat roofs, but in our tropical climate, living in one is better than none. Just like a mother but says that does on a hot sunny day.

Contact the author through designdimensions@yahoo.com or through our Associate Inquirer Facebook account.

FOR YOUR CEMENT NEEDS

isc

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Live in the heart of the city so you can focus on life's more important things.
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ROBINSONS LAND CORPORATION

PROPERTY

More property landmarks to dot Ph

By Tessa R. Salazar

WHAT DO Cebu Property Ventures and Development Inc., SM Development Corp., Filinvest Development Corp., Belle Corp. and Tiger Resorts, Leisure and Entertainment have in common?

They are never still, as all of them are putting up new buildings to accommodate offices, malls, hotels and entertainment complexes in various areas in the country.

Jones Lang LaSalle Levinson's Philippine Property Market Monitor in February 2012 enumerated the construction of a new IT building in Cebu City by Cebu Property Ventures and Development, a new office building by DMCI, a 13-storey building from Filinvest, the 7-story SM Olongapo and a new Filinvest retail complex in Cebu City.

Expansion

The JLL monitor also singled out the expansion of Belle Corp. and Solaire Resorts in the Pagcor Entertainment City at the Manila Bay Reclamation area. Tiger Resorts, Leisure and Entertainment Inc.'s recently launched $2-billion entertainment complex, meanwhile, has been called Manila Bay Resorts.

Construction of another IT building at the Cebu IT Park in Cebu City has started. The 12-story office, with a total of 15,784 sq m of leasable space, is a project of Cebu Property Ventures and Development and Avida Land-Cebu Properties.

DMCI is currently studying a possible avenue to develop office buildings catering to business processing outsourcing companies.

The JLL property market monitor also mentioned Filinvest's winning the bid for the development of a 10-story building on the property once occupied by the Bagong Buhay Rehabilitation Center and the Cebu City Treatment and Rehabilitation Center. The development would then be under a build-operate-transfer agreement with the Cebu City government.

Retail updates

The 7-story, 43,861-sq-m SM Olongapo mall—its once to customers from Zambales, Bataan and other nearby provinces—was recently opened. This is SM Prime Holdings' 62nd mall.

Filinvest is investing at least P7 billion in new retail establishments—the existing Tri-

SM Prime Holdings' 62nd mall

Rookie developer carves niche with 'new beginnings'

SOC LAND board of directors (from left) Brenda's Ramos, VP Misty Castro, Belen Cuenca, Juan Miguel Reyes, John Paul Reyes, Justina Marcaida and Edgardo Reyes

By Yvonne S. Santamiga

A NEW beginning. A new home. A new lifestyle. A new level of quality and luxury for the hard-working Filipino.

So these bold promises are being muscled off by a rookie player in the real estate industry, SOC Land Development Corp. is now leaning itself to meet such high expectations to be able to carve its own niche among a realm of well-established giants.

"I want to say that much record that I would give customers more than what the others are giving. The mid-market segment is the segment we felt was being underserved in terms of product quality, meaning the look and make of the building, and in terms of product planning and engineering," cowan John P. Reyes, chief executive officer of SOC Land.

Teaming with players

Reyes admits that the Philippine real estate industry, when SOC Land was established in December 2010, was already teeming with players, both old and new, many of which having a handful of existing and upcoming projects that flooded the market.

However, parent firm South China Resources decided to pursue the real estate business not only to enhance the company's shareholder value, but more importantly to fill in the need of Filipinos for better housing products.

South China Resources also expects its venture into the property sector to greatly contribute to the growth of the economy. Housing developments, according to Reyes, have big multiplier effects on the domestic economy, with every peso spent on building homes generating several more pesos in our gross domestic product. Also, more housing investments and production mean more jobs and sales for allied industries," he adds.

Reyes believes that SOC Land's market offering, the 2.4-hectare seaside-themed Amora set in the integrated township development in Mandaue City, is well poised to fill in that housing gap and provide "affordable-quality homes that will elevate the Filipinos' lifestyle while keeping within their means."

"We came in because we wanted to service the market better, so we decided to do a project that will stand out. That sounds like a marketing gimmick, but if you consider what we have done so far, like putting up a company in record time and starting to dig even before we started selling, that's how we are pursuing to the market that we can finish what we started," Reyes further explains.

According to Reyes, it was also practical for the company to go into property development, given its strong background and knowledge in construction. The developer's access to the Reyes group's various related enterprise and operations created a total synergy that will benefit even the most practical homebuyers.

"It starts with the creation of our knowledge from the construction industry with regard to being the biggest supplier in this sector," Reyes notes.

SOC Land is currently affiliated with construction materials manufacturers such as Pepar Steel Corp., Innermarket Pipe Industries Corp. (IPI) and Pepar Flooring Products Inc., makers of industry-leading APO brand of construction materials (APO Gallon, APO Floors and APO Pipes).

Resort-themed dev't

Amora (which is the Iberian for "a new beginning") is a mid-rise development on the east service road of South Luzon Expressway, giving future residents easy access to both Alabang and Makati central business districts as well as to major thoroughfares such as C-5, Roxas Road and South Luzon Expressway.

The site of this resort-themed development has been carefully master-planned in collaboration with some of the most renowned architects and engineers in the country in a bid to maximize the natural surroundings and add to the overall well-being of its residents.

80%, open-space provision

Reyes proudly stresses that what is truly notable about SOC Land's maiden offering is its 80-percent open-space provision, which he points out, is way above the industry average of 50 percent and the mandatory 30 percent.

"(But I said I wanted to service the market which is not being serviced properly, so I decided to give them something nobody else gave them, which is 80 percent open space. We only built on 20 percent of the land," Reyes says.

"The 80 percent open space is the lien anchor and major consideration (that I had because I know this is something that people can understand. No one else has given 19 (hectares) this much open space—no else has done it," he stresses.

Complementing Amora's vast open space are its world-class, "green" lifestyle amenities that will provide future homeowners an enjoyable and comfortable lifestyle. These include the 50-meter lap pool, lagoon and lake, themed parks and gardens, bay views, a yoga meditation garden and Wi-Fi-ready nooks whose prices start at P1.3 million.

The development likewise features tandem style, low-density 14- and 20-floor residential towers.

"Tandem-style building construction is the innovative architectural design which supports the medium-to-low density floor plan observed as one goes up the building. It comes with an average of 20 units per floor which is much less than the usual 75 rooms of other residential establishments," Reyes explains.

'Squarish' layouts

Amaires feature unique to Amora is the "squarish" configuration of its units, whether for a studio type, one-bedroom or two-bedroom layout.

"Compared to the typical rectangular condo units, Amora's squarish layouts will give future residents more room to explore and optimize their spaces and provide better ventilation as well," he adds.

Reyes is confident that by the time SOC Land has delivered off the units in Amora, the company will be able to leave that mark it had hoped to carve in the real estate industry—a supportable, able developer who can live up to its promise of providing Filipinos real value for their hard-earned money.

"Hopefully people would understand the value of what we are giving them as opposed to the value of their money elsewhere. Our philosophy really is if you serve the market better than the profits will come," Reyes concludes.

FROM LEFT are engineer Joseph Mora, Jocelyn Guevara, Dr. John Calalin, Augusto Leonardo, Richard Tay

Pro•Friends transforms lives in Lancaster Estates

OPENING A house in a complete community with recreation areas and parks and is easily accessible to the metro seems like a distant dream for most Filipinos. But what if this dream could be realized for as low as P650,000?

Property Company of Friends Inc. (Pro•Friends), one of the fastest-growing real estate developers in the Philippines, is helping 352 spaces to easily own their dream homes by introducing Lancaster Estates, one of its flagship projects in Cavite.

Conveniently located only a commendable distance to Metro Manila, Lancaster Estates stretches across 600 hectares, spanning Imus, General Trias and Rosario in Cavite.

Lancaster Estates is perfect for start-up families and young professionals with its wide array of near-luxury units to choose from at an affordable price range of P650,000 to P2,750,000.

Lancaster Estates offers quality townhouses with three bedrooms and single attached houses with three or four bedrooms, depending on the model.

Amenities, facilities

What makes Lancaster Estates stand out is its lineup of amenities, facilities and services that are geared toward the comfort and convenience of its residents. One of these facilities is the Leighton Hall, a clubhouse with swimming pool. Pro•Friends also built The Church of the Holy Family so that residents will no longer have to leave their community to attend Mass.

"Pro•Friends aims to provide only the best amenities and homes to customers," said Jocelyn Guevara, president of Pro•Friends. "We believe in building not only houses but communities and communities in all of our projects."

Other facilities include concrete roads, commercial areas, a transport terminal, electric service with pay, an entrance gate and a centralized waste system. Pro•Friends also takes pride in its linear park innovation that encourage bonding and sustainable living in residents.

Residents who work in Manila need not worry because Pro•Friends is connected directly with its proximity to places like the Manila-Cavite Toll Expressway (Cavitex), 15-minute distance from the Coastal Road in Parañaque, as well as to accessibility to banks, hospitals and shopping centers.

Newly-built school

Lancaster Estates also boasts to newly-built school St. Edward's Integrated School, under consultancy engagement with the Lasallian Schools Supervision Office, the Association Inc., De La Salle University Manila.

This school year, St. Edward's Integrated School is offering Kindergarten 1 and 2, Grades 1 to 4 for primary level and Grades 7 and 8 for secondary level.

"This is just the beginning for Lancaster Estates. We have a lot more projects and additions to the development for the years to come," Cowman said.

As one of the fastest growing real estates developers in the Philippines, Pro•Friends (www.profriends.com) continues to make a mark in the industry toward its thrust of providing quality amenities and lifestyle to its residents.

Pro•Friends remains committed to their commitment to create communities and transform lives. They are the developer of Lancaster Estates and Camossa Estates. The corporate has 86 ongoing projects and 32 completed and successful communities.

More property . . .

From page B3 >

real mall in Alabang and an upcoming retail complex in Cebu City. The ALL Property Alaska Marketing said the Festival Mall will have a new wing. The convention will increase the mall's leasable area by around 50 percent.

The February 2012 ALL investor also reported, "Grocery chain Puregold Price Club Inc. is looking to merge with SM's an upscale membership supermarket."

Lease additional land

A plan to lease an additional land in the Pagcor Entertainment City in the Manila Bay reclamation area by Bello Gaisano and Bloomberry Resorts has also been revealed. The ALL February report said the two developers are in talks with the government. Plans are about for the expansion of their ongoing projects Bello Grande Manila Bay for Bello Corp. and Solaire Manila for Bloomberry Resorts.

Tiger Resorts, Leisure and Entertainment, a subsidiary of Japan-based Universal Entertainment Corp., has officially launched its $2-billion entertainment complex to be called Manila Bay Resorts. The project will include luxury hotels, a high-end shopping mall and a casino. It will rise in the Pagcor Entertainment City.

Gift ideas to warm dad's heart

Simmons Beautyrest Black mattress

Made with the most luxurious natural fibers, like silk, wool and alpaca, the mattress is truly the rejuvenation of luxury and comfort. Its softness and warmth cannot be underrated. With generous layers of high performance foams, it's a treat to give the greatest rest on our lives this silk-made sleeping experience. (Available at Simmons Gallery)

By Theresa S. Sinsuangco

Hail to our mother, our strongest admirer, our staunchest critic, our greatest ally, our unrelenting saviour, our loyal defender. This writer could go on and on describing him using different adjectives and superlatives but at the end of the day he is that man that goes by the name "daddy."

The role that a father plays to a child—from the time of birth up to the moment the child reaches adulthood—is crucial, critical and not at all easy. Therefore, it is only fitting to give him the accolade, gratitude and tribute that is rightfully deserves.

As we celebrate Father's Day tomorrow and pay tribute to the most important man in our lives, Inquirer Property provides readers some gift ideas to consider gifts that are truly fit for the hardworking and ever reliable king.

Apollo Precision Tools

For best tool for any father who is into fixing stuff and repairing items at home. The 53-piece set from Apollo Precision Tools provides all the tools necessary for most repairs around the home. These tools are made of 45C carbon steel or chrome vanadium steel, and they've heat-treated and chrome-plated to resist corrosion. The tool handles are made of double-dipped plastics and the tool case is made of extra heavy-duty materials. (Available at True Value Power Plant Mall)

Wall-mounted CD player with radio

It has built in speakers that are deceptively knocked a power controller doubles as an on/off switch. This impressive sound gadget is one of Muji's brilliant products in store. But more than being an entertainment display, the Muji CD player represents design ingenuity as it has received recognitions worldwide. In 2002, it received the German iF Gold award and DESIGN Award while in 2008, it was added to the permanent collection of New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA). How's that for having a functional piece of art for dad's entertainment in the confines of his own home.

Gorilla racks

This all-steel storage system is perfect for storing dad's various stuff and it would perfectly fit any corner of the house. It features a powder-coat finish with adjustable shelves and 2 heavy-poles. Shelves are resistant to moisture, alkalies, oil and some acids. Assembly is easy, requiring no nuts or bolts. Available at True Value in Power Plant Mall.

X-O Rust Paint & Primer In One

A perfect gift for dad as he prepares for the onset of the rains, X-O Rust® Paint & Primer In One is a revolutionary new coat applied material for rust prevention at its finest. And that's not all, its innovative 360 technology allows super-fast drying of any angle—even upside down—for quick, even coverage. Best of all, you can apply it directly to metal surfaces. Use it indoors or outdoor metal, wood and even masonry for professional results. (Available at True Value Power Plant Mall)

Gear Tie

Reusable Rubber Twist Ties have a tough rubber shell that provides excellent grip, a strong wire core and holds its shape, and is a range of bright colors to match family dad's ego. Gear Ties could also double organize nearly anything from a small cord or cable to large sporting goods equipment. Twist it, Tie it, Reuse it.

Alarm Clock

Just what dad needs to ensure that he makes it to the meeting on time. The round analog alarm clock available at all Muji stores in compact, handy, and can be easily packed just like how she likes his things.

LED Torch

Every man needs a flashlight. Give dad something he could use in his garage, around the house or just about anywhere he goes. (Available at Muji, Power Plant Mall)

Stella lounge chair

This one would surely give dad that relaxing feel after a hard day at work. It is made from Philippine mahogany wood combined with fabric and foam for dad's ultimate comfort. It features a mahogany ombre finish and has a dimensions of 110 H x 81.8 x 83 cm. (Available at Philko Home Plaza Mall.)

PonteFino Hotel, Residences provide backdrop to Ms Earth resort-wear competition

MUST SEE: the premises of PontaFino Prime is an integration of nature into the built environment, a synergy between modern-day living and everyday wellness. Miss Earth Philippines delegates are shown at various locations in PontaFino Hotel.

40 MISS Earth Philippines, the only beauty pageant that has an expressed mission in protecting and conserving the environment, were homecomers, an important leg of the pageant was recently held at the PonteFino Hotel and Residences in Batangas City.

The Bicol Pinay candidates stun 40 lovely ladies from all over the country sashay to their flowy, tropical dresses, usually on top of their swimwear, regaling the crowd.

Earlier in the day, Batangas City Mayor Vilma Dimacuha herself a welcomed the contestants, organizers and guests to her progressive city, giving them a baranggay of its offerings in a cultural event and that held at the Batangas City Convention Center.

PontaFino's chief operating officer Felix Ramos, on the other hand, expressed her happiness in renewing a tie-up with Carousel Productions, organizer of Miss Earth Philippines.

"I'm glad that PontaFino and Carousel Productions have once again merged their efforts in the worthwhile advocacy of environmental stewardship," Ramos said. "We at PontaFino acknowledge our role to this regard and consciously incorporate and find ways in order to mitigate our impact on the environment."

Host, judges, winners

Hosting the event was Miss Philippines Earth 2011 winner Athena Imperial, who individually called the ladies to PontaFino's morning pockets, sprayed up with a stage and long red carpet runway.

Judges for this particular competition, appearing the concessionaires' panel, confidence and presence, included international fashion designer Iis Cuizon, PontaFino chief finance officer Tommy Tumoso and People Asian Woman of Style and Substance Ann Pontejos. But the judges' scores did not brighter than Glamour Bride of Talisay City who bagged the title, Miss Philippines Earth 2012's Best in Resort Wear. Special awards went to Quezon City of Batangas City (Miss Photogenic Title) and Tourism Ilo Province of San Juan City (Miss PontaFino Residences and Miss Friendship). Bontigao and a few band performances followed the awarding ceremony.

Tree-planting rite

The next day, a tree planting ceremony was held in the property of PontaFino, part of the open space of the ocean ecological development. PontaFino Prime. This project connects to the already existing PontaFino Residences, a development that boasts of seventeen and condotels included in a 104 class community and which enjoy hotel conveniences such as round-the-clock housekeeping, maintenance assistance, room service, 180-percent electrical power backup and 24 hour security.

PontaFino Prime, as its name suggests, will offer exceptional features and numerous benefits for prospective owners who will possess a unit either as investment or residence. "No other residential development in the area comes close in offering such luxuries and accessibility" said PontaFino president and chief executive officer Ruby Gonzales. "It is located in the frontier of progress for secured value, growth and high returns."

Editor Cesar D. Mangosing

SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Bradley's vegan diet not new among athletes

THE ONLY fighter to beat Pacquiao in 7 years literally has no bone on pick with his vegan diet. AFP

By Tessa R. Salazar

AS SURPRISING as Timothy Bradley's split-decision win over Filipino boxing champ Manny Pacquiao is, the former's vegan diet (devoid of any animal protein—pork, beef, chicken and dairy) during training isn't really new in the athletic world.

Nine-time Olympic gold medal winner and vegan Carl Lewis, who was voted "Sportsman of the Century" by the International Olympic Committee and named "Olympian of the Century" by the American Sports Illustrated, once starred in chef Jane Asquith Bennett's book "Very Vegetarian" that his best year of track competition was the first year he was on a vegan diet.

Moreover, by considering it not a vegan diet, my weight is another matter. I like the way I look," he said in the book's introduction.

World champion athletes who are known vegetarians, as compiled by "The Food Revolution" author John Robbins from various sources, reports including Suzanne Havala's "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Being Vegetarian," Anita Bean's "The Vegetarian Athlete" and Lisa Dorfman's "The Vegetarian Sports Nutrition Guide" are Ridgely Abele, winner of eight national championships in karate; Sonja Bonaly, olympic figure skating champion; Peter Bormuth, Davis Cup winner and professional tennis star; Ian-Jesus Cobbing, fourfold champion bodybuilder, Olympic gold medalist in the ski jump; Chris Campbell, Olympic wrestling champion; Nicky Cole, five women to walk to North Pole; Ruth Heidrich, six-time ironwoman, 15 track and field Master's champions; Keith Holmes, world-champion middleweight boxer; and Dave Scott, six-time winner of the Ironman triathlon. The list goes on.

Sports nutrition

Nutritionist and book author Sally Bean since said a typical American adult male gorilla thrives on a vegan diet of vegetables, fruit and nuts. "True, the gorilla is only a close relative of ours, but the latest research in sports nutrition shows that our top athletes not only build sufficient muscle, but do best in terms of endurance and stamina, when following a vegetarian diet."

Yale University professor Russell Chittenden, in the early 1900s, was one of the first to challenge the great meat protein myth. He conducted at least three studies that examined the question of whether meat and high protein were really necessary for optimal performance.

Dr. Neil Barnard, author of "Power Foods," said the conclusion of Chittenden's research was a study of well-trained soldiers.

"At the beginning of his study, these athletes were all on a typical meat diet. Chittenden had them then switch to a plant-based diet for five months. At the end of the study period, when their fitness levels were reexamined, the athletes had improved a striking 35 percent."

As Dr. T. Colin Campbell, professor emeritus of Nutritional Biochemistry at Cornell University was interviewed by Inquisitor Science and Health, commented: "only the dietary change could have accounted for these remarkable results." Campbell illustrates this in his article "Muscling Out the Meat Myth."

"What Chittenden suggested years ago is now being reviewed by hundreds of writers. Eating animal flesh and animal protein is not necessary to enable optimal protein intake for performance and performance," Nedley said.

The American Dietetic Association goes it another way when it said in 1988: "It is the position of the American Dietetic Association that vegetarian diets are healthful and nutritionally adequate when appropriately planned."

Nature rescuing man from his own undoing

MEDICAL FILES

Rafael Guerrero

WE WROTE in a previous column about the potential for psychoses or yearnings as an anti-cancer fruit. Emily Dela Cruz, senior writer of DBA Health & Lifestyle magazine informed us of a local research validating this. It also studied several other indigenous plants, fruits and herbs.

Dr. Sonia Jacinto, an anti-cancer natural products professor from the University of the Philippines-Diliman, conducted the research.

The research, titled "Philippine Plants Showing Cytotoxic Activity in Selected Human Cancer Cell Lines" aimed to identify and isolate compounds responsible for the cancer-killing action of the plant extracts.

Dr. Jacinto and her team of researchers cultured cancer cells in the laboratory and treated it with the plant extracts to find out its impact on cancer cell growth. "If they grow, then the study is unsuccessful. If it dies, it is a good sign that we can proceed to the next stage," Emily quoted Dr. Jacinto in his report.

Promising findings

According to Dr. Jacinto, there are already promising findings from the plant Annona squamosa, commonly known as the atis. The doctor added that Annona squamosa is a close relative of Annona Muricata, or the guyabano which is known to be rich in Acetheenin C, to treat cancer.

Aside from atis and guyabano, sabagalita, or the Canscora diffusa, a herbal medicine with cytotoxic activity against cancer, showed anticancer potential. Dr. Jacinto's research group tested sabagalita's cancer-killing properties against several cancer cell lines, and found it favorable and promising.

In identifying the active compound responsible for the anti-cancer effects, the research team has isolated a mixture of polyunsaturated fatty acid esters that may be the key substance which pharmaceutical companies can try to develop into cancer chemotherapeutic agents.

Strong properties

Dr. Jacinto's group also found the Colubrina Cupulifera or the fingal-fingal showing strong antitumoric properties particularly for colon cancer, prostate cancer, lung nonsmall cell adenocarcinoma, liver cancer, chronic myelogenous leukemia and human gastric cancer cell lines. The research team identified the ethanolic extract from the dried plant's roots as showing strong inhibitory effects versus those different cancer cells.

The plant is commonly used for amamonsalin. Bernel Tolibo also use the plant for medicinal purposes, as a dry fumentation for abdominal pain.

Dr. Jacinto's team continues to research on other indigenous plants and herbs and evaluate their anti-cancer potential. She's encouraging other Filipino scientists to conduct similar researches on plants which might eventually turn into a breakthrough anticancer chemotherapeutic agent for us.

The medical community welcomes researches like what Dr. Jacinto is doing. Although it's still a long way off until we can really say that these plants, herbs and fruits have clinically meaningful anticancer effects, most medical breakthroughs start with basic research in the laboratory.

Admittedly, one can say that since these are naturally derived products, their side effects or reactions would be much less than the potent, synthetically prepared anti-cancer drugs. The potential for toxicity would be much less with naturally derived preparations. But again, all these basic researches have shown the potential for these indigenous plants and fruits for cancer therapy. We have to wait until it has passed the stringent process of drug development—up to the clinical trial phase—to ascertain their efficacy and safety.

Gov't support

The government should support these local researches and through the Philippine PDA, it should discourage encroaching businessmen from exploiting these preliminary results to market their expensive products derived from these plants and herbs.

Personally, I find nothing wrong for those with means who take those natural plants and herbs for cancer patients discontinue whatever tried-and-tested drugs and interventions their oncologists or cancer experts have recommended for them. They should also tell their physicians whatever natural products they're taking so those can be considered for co-related drug or plant-drug interactions.

Aside from genetics, cancer can also be the result of man's folly—because of the reckless modern lifestyle he lives. If the results of these basic laboratory researches are finally proven someday to be clinically meaningful and relevant, it's amazing to know how nature tries to come to the rescue of man, to save him from his own undoing.

Several remedies to sensitive teeth

By Theresa S. Sanantonio

SOMETHING SHRIEKLY simple as "paraphrase" should not be taken for granted.

Paraphrase or sensitive teeth, which is often characterized by a short and sharp pain that one experiences from eating, biting or cold foods, is actually be a sign that certain areas of the teeth have already become vulnerable.

"Tooth sensitivity is very common, yet many do not know the signs. Worse, some actually choose to dismiss them, from the occasional paraphrase, it is sign of sensitivity, which means that the teeth have vulnerable areas," said Dr. Angie De Guzman, a noted dental practitioner.

Highly prevalent

In the Philippines, this occurrence is highly prevalent with as many as 8 out of 10 Filipinos said to be suffering from sensitive teeth, according to Project DENTAL 911.

According to the website WebMD, sensitive teeth "occur when the underlying layer of your teeth—the dentin—becomes exposed as a result of receding gum tissue, the protective blanket that covers the tooth roots."

"The roots, which are not covered by hard enamel, contain thousands of tiny tubules leading to the tooth's nerve center or the pulp. These dentinal tubules or channels allow the stimuli—for example, the hot, cold, or sweet food—to reach the nerve in your mouth, which results in the pain you feel," the website explained.

Factors that may lead to sensitive teeth, the website further stated, included brushing too hard, tooth decay near the gum line, recession of the gums, gum disease (gingivitis), chipped or broken teeth, teeth grinding, tooth whitening procedures, age (tooth sensitivity reportedly highest between the ages of 25 and 30), plaque buildup, mouthwash use and acidic foods.

Avoiding pain

To reduce or prevent tooth sensitivity, WebMD recommends several simple steps that one can undertake to avoid the pain. These included maintaining good oral hygiene, using a soft bristled toothbrush and using desensitizing toothpaste and fluoride dental products.

In the Philippines, Glaxosmithkline (GSK) Consumer Healthcare has the new Sensodyne Repair and Protect toothpaste—the first daily fluoride toothpaste from Sensodyne which contains the advanced Novamin technology.

Novamin is a clinically proven patented formula that seals out and attaches to areas of tooth that are sensitive. Sensodyne Repair and Protect helps repair sensitive areas of teeth and also that are the natural building blocks of teeth.

Clinically-proven formula

"Chemically, Novamin is an amorphous structure that contains solely of elements found in the body—calcium, calcium, sodium, phosphorous and oxygen. This forms a mineral matrix or artificial tooth at home and seeks that can repair previous damage, and protect it from future deterioration," Dr. Castro explained.

"Novamin has a long history of safety and efficiency, and has been clinically proven to provide relief and daily protection for sensitive teeth," she further said.

Sandro Bagnol, head of marketing of GSK Consumer Healthcare, stressed that by using Sensodyne Repair and Protect as a regular toothpaste twice daily will help in sensitively repair and protect sensitive areas of your teeth.

Efficient approach for rheumatoid arthritis management

LORNICA GAHTOR has accomplished much in her life. From a successful 40-year marriage that resulted in four accomplished children and several grandchildren, to working as a real estate agent with her spouse, to enjoying an active lifestyle like aerobics and jogging daily, Lornica has kept herself happy and healthy for years.

When she turned 61 years old she began experiencing an uncomfortable pain in her knees and lower joints. At first, it was bearable, and she thought that perhaps she was just overexerting herself. She tried to cut down on the physical exercise but instead of getting better, the pain just continued to get worse. It got so bad that soon she could no longer walk without the aid of a cane.

Lornica and her husband first saw a neurologist in 2009 as they worried that her worsening pain might be a nerve problem. The doctor advised her to get knee-replacement surgery as he felt this might help alleviate the pain and return her to normal. Her family was very against her having an operation.

They saw another neurologist who referred them to an orthopedic surgeon who initially denied the request from her doctor and prescribed her with steroids for the pain. When this treatment, however, did nothing to stop it from worsening, he referred them to Dr. Nymphia Sibargayan, a rheumatologist at the University of the East Ramon Magsaysay Medical Center on Aurora Boulevard and Dee Lady of Lourdes Hospital in Mandaluyong City.

They went to see Dr. Sibargayan in late 2013, "she knew right away what was wrong and I was diagnosed with rheumatoid arthritis or RA," Lornica shared.

Dr. Sibargayan started Lornica on disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDS) and pain reliefers (NSAIDs). She was also taking steroids which had caused swelling of her face and other uncomfortable side effects.

In March 2013, Dr. Sibargayan started Lornica on Abatacept infusion. She gave her own limitations and the effect of the medicine took place very quickly. "After the infusion of the medicine, ... the pain began to subside and the inflammation started going away too. It was slowly going back to the way I felt before the pain began," Lornica exclaimed.

In other true power of struggling with the discomfort and the pain and swelling of her lower extremities, followed by discomfort and pain in her upper joints, and having to resort to a cane just to be able to walk short distances, Lornica finally found the relief she had long been looking for. Since her infusions with Abatacept, life has finally gone back to normal. Not only can she walk again, but she has started to get back to her old hobbies and pursuits.

"For the first time in years I can do aerobics again and enjoy walks with my husband," Lornica shared with a smile. "I try not to be too hard on my body, but it is good to be mobile again and be able to get around. It was hard for someone very active like me to suddenly not be able to move."

With a successful first year of treatment, and follow-up checkups at three months, then six months, and a first maintenance dose, Lornica's condition continued to improve. "She is healthy, strong, and has responded very well to the treatment," Dr. Sibargayan said. "We can look at giving her infusions annually based on her treatment progress. It makes the treatment more effective and the effects are long lasting."

Abatacept is a unique therapy for rheumatoid arthritis (RA), specifically targeting the B cell—a component of the immune system and key factor in autoimmune-mediated inflammation. B cells trigger a variety of cellular processes including generation of autoantibodies and abnormal T-cell function, which are strongly implicated in the pathogenesis of RA. There are treatments available to manage RA such as biologic therapies with TNF inhibitors, but at least one third of RA patients do not respond to TNF inhibitor therapy. By targeting the B cell and abnormal T-cell function, other biologics have had an inadequate response to TNF inhibitor therapy an alternative treatment that has proven success in the treatment of RA.

Abatacept is a prescription drug and should only be taken in accordance with the advice of a physician.

super LIFESTYLE
Style . Urban living . Pop culture . Entertainment . Recreation
Editor
Thelma Sioson San Juan
Lifestyle Editor
Piero Pantoja

The return of Kimmy and Dora

Super talks to actress Eugene Domingo and screenwriter Chris Martinez about their friendship, their new film and why Dora is stealing Kimmy's spotlight

STILL ADORABLE. Dora Do Chong Hee

By Piero Pantoja

"ABU ang ng buhay ni Dora," Eugene Domingo said. "Upang lang siya, kukuh siya ng carbs on carbs on carbs on carbs, magkaka-lung siya ng bulbs. Sino nga boyfriend?"

It's the day after Kimmy Dora and the Temple of Kiyeme opened in theaters across the country and we were in United Studios about to sit down with Chris Martinez, the real-life Kimmy to Eugene's Dora.

Chris and Eugene go way back—they met in UP when Eugene joined The UP Repertory Company and have been best friends since. They've collaborated on countless projects and their winning formula has resulted in some of the most successful Filipino films in the past years....Enteng Ang Mong Kasambahay, Here Comes The Bride and Ang Babae Sa Septic Tank which raked in awards at last year's Cinemalaya and has been making the rounds at film festivals all over the world.

Their newest completed project, the sequel to the high-ly successful Kimmy Dora, is an enjoyable romp both for fans eagerly awaiting the return of the Go Dong kiss-twins and people who didn't see the first film. "This movie can really stand alone," Eugene said.

Writing the sequel wasn't easy for Chris who decided that comedy just wasn't enough this time—he wanted to add horror to the mix. "Making suspenseful, nailbiting sequence. When you put the two together, you're doubling the challenge," Chris said.

But both Chris and Eugene enjoy the many challenges thrown their way. Long before they finished filming the Kimmy Dora sequel, the two already started working on another project, I Do Brides Bidoo, a musical movie that will pay tribute to the timeless songs of Apo Hiking Society. Chris wrote and is directing the film.

And although they still have five shooting days left, they're already discussing future projects they want to tackle next including the third film in the Kimmy Dora franchise. "Parang gusto nang sabi ni Direk nyan," Chris said.

Like Kimmy and Dora, there are a lot of things to love about Eugene and Chris and we stop at that for fear of desire to share the spotlight. They are quick to give credit to the people they work with, saying "Hindi naman kaya 'to ang ayusing dalawa lang. It's always a team effort."

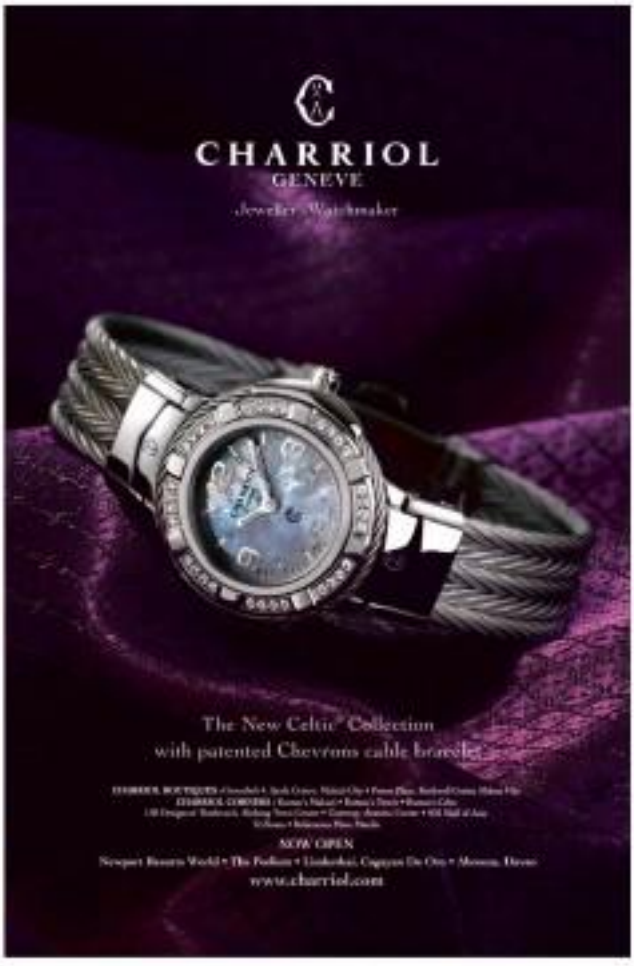
Super spent an afternoon with Chris and Eugene to talk about their friendship, their dreams and why Dora is stealing Kimmy's thunder.

Did you feel any pressure while writing the sequel given that the first movie was so successful?

Chris: "Yung pressure, galing sa nanonood ng film. How do you up the ante? Siyempre kailan gar mas malaki siya. There has to be something new. May chemist nasy like Ang Ilinh Joyce Bernal. Somewhere along the way nagbago ako ng isip. I felt that when I submitted was just a repetition of the first. I decided to mix the genres....comedy and horror....but

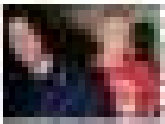
YOU'RE READING 12

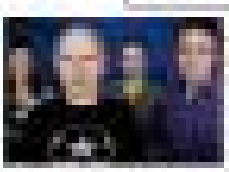
BFFs. Eugene Domingo and Chris Martinez



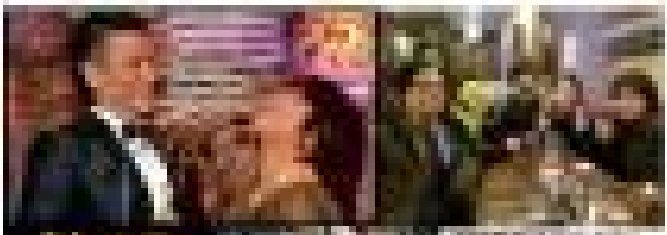
The return of Kimmy and Dora

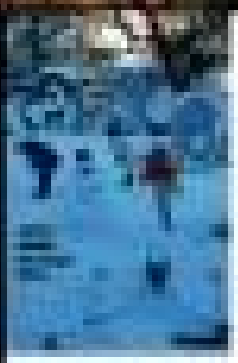
Your Super gig guide for a rainy day

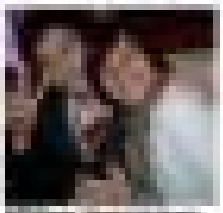




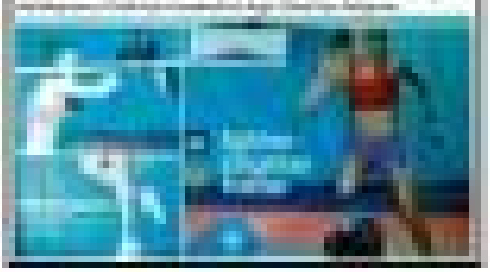
GRAND PRIX DADDY







Improvisational theater group marks 10th year with stage feat



ADIDAS TIES UP WITH GOLDS' GYM

Greetings, Earthling

The handshake, wave, 'beso' and when to use them

"YOU SAY goodbye, and I say hello." So saw the Beatles fear to talk about awkward social interactions to us tailor to every touch-and-go contact, but it's a good reminder that social codes are ever and useful to us.

It's like the way public toilets always have different taps and soap dispensers. Door pedal knocks emptying water from a sliced sized glass—easy, right?). When handshakes were introduced to Fiji, it has become a custom that could leave you shaking hands all throughout your friendly encounters. In Hip-Hop, well, I don't know how people greet each other in those circles. Some people wing greetings like they were pages at finishing school or the school of Bond. James Bond, but the more reserved and introverted of us—the Phil Humphys and Dan Cruzeiks—have a little bit more trouble.

In the Philippines, the usual common involves an abundance of modesty, "pakikisama" (propagated by ads for coffee and beer for group gatherings) and the proper use of four. Getting across very learned can be easier of a matter of your character than general sensibility—which is strange, because what's not so new. So, we signal a level of comfort that may or may not exactly be the case. The use of the beso, or the cheek-to-cheek, is to me the second-base of a handshake and the successor of the hand-on-forehead source of yesteryear. But because of the gray area of social interaction, there are some situations where, like

Skinny Spears, "Sometimes I run, sometimes I hide. Sometimes I'm scared of you, and all I really want is to hold you tight." Or shake your hand.

It's the plight of the awkward; in meeting new people or acquaintances, there is a right answer, but the right answer is an art. Today, awkwardness is signaled by a clumsy execution of social norms that lead to very self-aware silences and revealing. Awkwardness, in the Internet age, is the stuff of memes—from Awkward Family Photos to Awkward Parents. A quote by Ralph Waldo Emerson rules it to further: "Until you forgive you, let will bear awkwardness has no forgiveness or keenness or ends."

Hello

"Yo Hawaii, don't they use 'aloha' for hello and goodbye?" Standee Bullock as Gracie Hart asks in the film "Miss Congeniality." "So, if you're on the phone with somebody and they won't stop talking and you say, 'okay, take care. Aloha.' Don't they just start over again?"

I'm at the bar with my back on everyone else but the bartender. An acquaintance comes in, greets my friend beside me, and I turn around from my barstool to greet him. With an ergonomic pivot and a gender-equal impulse, I extend my hand and grip his firmly. But a second later, remembering Spanish-original customs and a flexibility for "how he does it," I tighten my already tight grip to pull his cheek toward mine. It takes a while for me to notice that he is holding back. For five agonizing seconds of cheek-to-posed encounter, this acquaintance smacks straighter, clearly resisting my lingering force with a disturbed face. In short, I die.

I've been tortured up by so many awkward before that I'm sensitively attuned to even the brain force secretly executed by the supposedly gentle "tuncheeks" (men from behind). I suspect it from my older parents who resist strong perfusion, old Europe, and rouge—but these days, because people my age wear my cheek germs on both their cheeks, I get confused.

Handshakes are a little bit easier, but it's an art inconducive to people who engage personal warmth from you. In the days of Ballbag, the "handshake ball" was something I didn't watch to get a laugh out of, I watched it for empathy. I dreamed the handshakes fail as putting your hand over the someone who takes it on shortly than you dreamt it to someone's hand, and in the process the person takes hand you first tried to shake unfairly his hand see in the cold.

I have decided that if it's not a black and white situation—that is, the blush and relative of a hearty one connection, I waive. I never like the Queen facing an undifferentiated crowd of

#WWWADNESS is the staff of lovers.

classroom levels. Wave at your mom. Wave at your peers. Wave. Just wave. This is my best cop out because I have trouble maneuvering around rules of the "raise or never you" minimum. You know what shape a wave makes? A rainbow.

When I was seven, we used to have "English Speech" class. We'd have to greet the teacher "Good morning, Ms Beautiful Teacher" with an exaggerated inflection. If you followed the book, "How are you" automatically signaled, "I'm fine." And whenever I come across an exercises or any friendly person, I would always respond with, "I'm fine," like an early version of artificial intelligence. I didn't know that sometimes, it's proper to ask people how they are in return.

But greetings have always been problematic for me in more ways than one. Once, my science teacher walked by my class, and I yelled out, "Good morning, Ms Mara." I don't recall what must have propelled me to do that, but the secret pain is, I did it innocently, to be friendly. Later that day, she saw me down and threatened to give me a C unless I understood why I couldn't call her that.

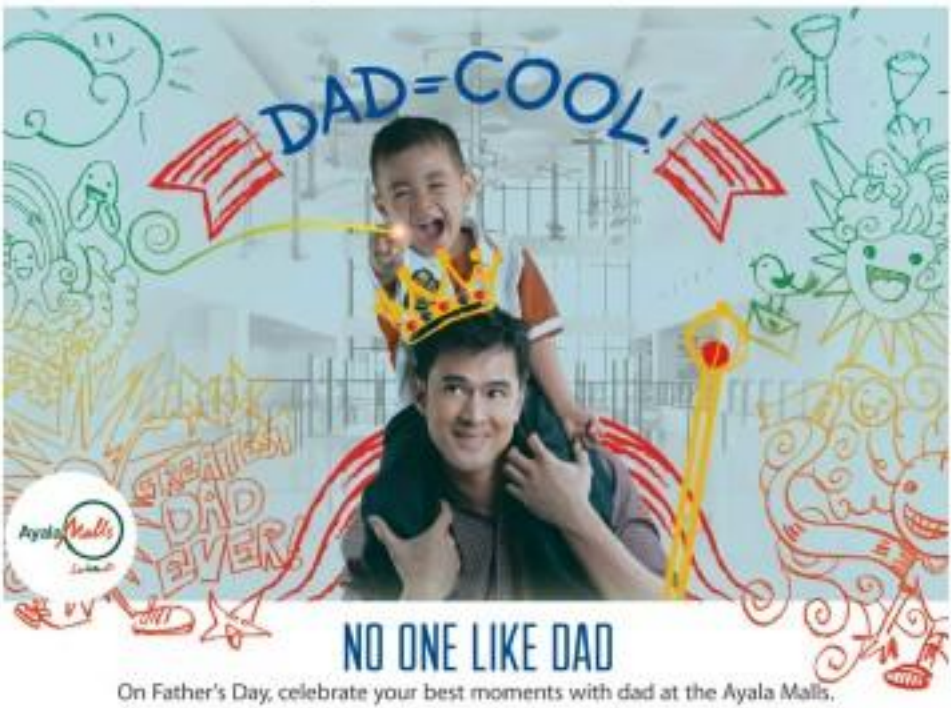
Goodbye

"Hey, that's no way to say goodbye," sang Leonard Cohen—but what is? I wish that the rituals of goodbye were the same for every situation and culture, and see this condensing pack and ride: a handshake for a formal meeting, a half-assed beso for a friend you'll see again shortly, a beso-shake for a stranger you've shared life anecdotes with in the last half hour, a hug for hour huggers, and an epileptic wave when it's the last time you see your mom this.

These days, I no longer avoid places where my ability to discern between non-people and handshake people would be overwhelming. A lot of the time, if my rather soaring technique is successful, a handshake to cheek, I don't overpower, And in the metaphor survival that makes, I'll lose your beso, your boyfriend's boyfriend, and I'll even beso the cocktail waves in the cocktails.

But in every music student eventually picks up counterpoint. I'm getting a hang of the exchange. And for all the awkward people out there, I just want to say: yes, the confusion happens to everybody and when you're self-aware, don't forget—extricating yourself from the situation to avoid it completely is a whole new ballpark. Don't do a taboo you can answer over-compensate. Beso, handshake and wave—like a multilingual beatbox.

Akiba



NO ONE LIKE DAD

On Father's Day, celebrate your best moments with dad at the Ayala Malls.

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KENYA'S MAASAI MARA

Nature puts on the greatest show on earth

It is said that John Galliano's jaw dropped... I realized just how easy it was for Hemingway or Huxley to wax romantic about those halcyon days of the hunt

MAASAI: unlike women at a local village in the Maasai Mara, say, a cheetah, blood dripping from its jaw, allow feeding on a baby Thompson's gazelle

By Paolo Bayas

WHEN fashion designer John Galliano first set foot on Elephant Pepper, an old fashioned safari camp in the beating heart of the African bush, his jaw dropped and his face froze upon catching sight of his "suite" for the next four nights.

Canopied under a grove of pepper trees where sweet monkeys played and fought, and guarded by a row of Maasai warriors clad in ocher blankets, was a luxe canvas tent with a backyard unlike any other: the game-rich grasslands of the Maasai Mara, Kenya's most famous wildlife reserve.

Whenever readers confess whether Galliano ruined his delighted eyebrows in delight or disbelief that his most marvelous on-their-feet traditional safari, it's usually a mix of both.

Limited mobile

With limited mobile phone access, no preservatives (12 solar panels power the entire site, when needed), no permanent structures (mindful of its eco-footprint, the camp is completely mobile), and an undressed location inhabited by all creatures wild and free, Elephant Pepper Camp (+1917 www.elephantpepper.com or call ad. 8.1227208) offers

NATURE PUTS ON

GARFIELD — BY JIM DAVIS

A. UPIN — BY JESS ABRERA

PUGAD BAWDY — BY PAL JURICK

DICK TRACY — BY JOE STATON AND MIKE CURTIS

LOVE-MOTS — BY ELIZABETH MCDONALD

BABY BLUES — BY JERRY SCOTT

KIKO MACHINE — BY FRANK ABRERA

SEIN — BY DANIEL SHELTON

MUTTS — BY PATRICK MCDONNELL

SHERMAN'S LAGOON — BY JIM TOOMEY

DILBERT — BY STEVE WILLEY AND JEFF PARKER

TULDOK — BY MARA COLL

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS CORAZO

THE BOMB TODAY You are intelligent and upbeat. You want to be right constantly. Sometimes you're so sure of yourself that you're rather than believe you're wrong. Sometimes you alienate your friends with your. You are capable of long-term benefits, particularly if you have self-discipline, you patiently live this way. One step, something you've been putting off for too long. Be careful not to overdo or overeat in order to make room for something new.

Birthdays are Pat Mahoney, author Kevin Kelley, fashion expert, Martha Stewart, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This is an excellent time for investment and investments. You have a lot of mental and physical energy to think about tomorrow, read them and be mindful of them. One word to avoid: controversial.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) This Moon is in your sign today. Most say extraordinary flavor. You grow you a lot to go, productivity-wise. You want to avoid conflict.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You can expect to be in, either you're challenge today, especially with your work authorities. You enjoy people, you're looking romantic and passionate today.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Old group activities will be upbeat and energetic today. Social life is on, but romantic with someone called to who you will likely are a long out ahead.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) Serious parents and VIPs will smile your briefly today. It appears that you're ready but you're not ready to be a public figure. Celebrate! Others.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Look for ways to do something different today. Read anywhere if you are bored. Changes for a change of scenery, give you want somewhere else.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) You can benefit from the energy of the day today, so keep your positive attitude. You're a people person today, and you have the energy to do this. You might not have a choice in your social end of home versus out.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You want to do something positive today, so keep your positive attitude. Others will be drawn to you. You might not have a choice in your social end of home versus out.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You are full of energy to work on the 60 today. Some of you will run the extra energy to exercising or to do something for your health.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) Some playful activities with children, vacations and social events love your attention today. You get lots of energy to party! Plan to do something that's fun and active.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) You want to do something positive today, so keep your positive attitude. Others will be drawn to you. You might not have a choice in your social end of home versus out.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) Your confidence and enthusiasm will make some people a little shy, but you're in a great day to eat, socialize, work, or to express yourself in something and get started!

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and programs at www.sudoku.com

Concepts Sudoku — By Mike Mead

		6				4		
	5						2	
2			7		4			9
		4	1		3	9		
		1	2		8	5		
9			5		1			8
	6						3	
		8				6		

Difficulty Level: ★★★★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

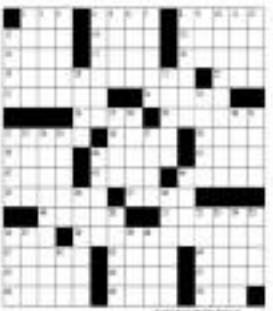
ACROSS

1 Richard's heart
4 ___ pro
Lincoln coin
8 Animal hides
13 Hindu queen
14 Ancient Greek
15 Tennis Hall of Fame
16 Book ending
17 Like a priest
18 Cocktail
19 Actress Van ___ (80's
Scandalous)
20 Hat accessory
21 Lots of fuss
22 Hill
23 Perfumes
25 Cricket equipment
26 Mauve decades
28 Wading birds
30 Bill
31 Ate
34 Unsatisfying
36 Don't be cynical
37 Avenue
40 Ancient Greek deities
41 Type of fish
42 Lair
43 Unconventional
44 Kitchen appliance
45 Kitchen
46 Check item
47 Wine or whiskey
49 Ingredient
50 Pharaohs
51 Pigpen
52 Lubricators
53 Chemical compounds
54 Bee-like
55 Nasha
56 Rice

57 Vitamin
58 Long-necked animals
59 Ewe
60 Police operations

DOWN

1 Today's question
2 ___ Lanka
(pacific isle)
3 Clumsy creature
4 Cycle of events
5 Cookbook
6 Colorful chemical
elements
7 Clothes dryers
8 Cuban dictator
9 Exam that some seek
10 Cincinnati Kitty
11 Cincinnati Reds Fielder
12 Taiwan, like
some cultures
24 Ancient
27 Inventions
29 Lawsuit
31 Lasers
32 Island Kingdom
33 Pooh
35 Designers or models
36 Ancient Greek
37 Ancient
38 Ancient
39 Tavern
40 Agreements to take back
41 Lethal insecticides
42 Legal proceedings
43 Cutlass
44 Cutlass
45 Cutlass
46 Changeling decision
47 Cheese sandwiches
48 Cutlass
49 Cutlass
50 Pegasus



Crossword Puzzle Solved

Nature puts on the greatest show on earth

SAVANNAH plains, above, a spotted hyena

From page D1

what most five-star African lodges cannot — an opportunity to experience Kenya in its age of innocence.

Kenya, the land of Karen Blixen's "Out of Africa," world-class Olympic athletes, and Barack Obama's forefathers, is where the European pastime of game-viewing began in the 19th century, and the Maasai Mara, once the world's most popular playground for hunters and its poachers, was to birth-place.

In those days, when well-heeled Westerners with a sense of adventure went on "safari" (the Swahili word for "journey"), it meant long, rain-forever nights in horse-drawn wagons with a huge contingent of staff and crew ready to pitch a tent and prepare a campfire roast supper.

When I arrived at Elephant Pepper Camp during the rutting days of Kenya's blistering summer last March, I realized just how easy it was for writers like Hemingway or Huxley to wax romantic about these baby-on days of the hunt.

Deafening silence

Gone, of course, where the crackling sounds of rifles being fired in the air and the constant drumming of headbeats in the red dirt. As I sat under a ceiling of stars, enjoying my glass of Tusker beer over the campfire, there was only the deafening silence of the night, interrupted only by a distant call in the darkness or the thunderous roar of lion.

The authentic charm of this 20-tent-old mobile camp, a true "black hide resort" where you can completely disconnect from the modern world, is in its seamless details.

Linked together by marked footpaths in the bush, each of the eight canvas tents consist of a main bedroom with a queen-sized bed, an en-suite bathroom (with a wash basin, bucket shower), and two shaded, fly-flanked cots), and a private veranda with a hammock perfect for soundless naps between game drives.

Safari highlight

The morning and afternoon game drives on open-sided Land Rovers are the highlight of my safari in the Mara, a savannah as flat, leveled, and free of obstruction that in other camps and locations (mostly views of the big cats, wildebeests, zebras, giraffes, gazelles, and spotted hyenas on parade.

I will recall the unmistakable thrill I felt when I witnessed my first kill, which may sound like an unremarkable event if you haven't too much. National Geographic for reality, gives its rarity, it's heart-pumping, hair-raising sense that the lion safari movie-cliches made of.

On a morning close to the Leopard Gorge, my guide Stanley called our attention to a skirmish resulting like a nervous predator through the grass; her prey discovered it is helpless prey: a baby Thomson's gazelle that had strayed away from the safety of its pack.

A panicked bleating, the mom bolts, swerves from the herd, a frantic attempt to warn the wayward fawn of an impending doom. My stomach knots as I followed the action from afar, no choice, to kill.

At the blink of an eye, it was all over. The predator, her mouth firmly locked on the bleeding neck of its prey, grew increasingly paralyzed as a flock of vultures began circling overhead in a ghoulish dance of death.

"The law of the jungle," Stanley said as I sat motionless at the edge of my seat. "Just another day in the life of the Mara. Shall we head back to Elephant Pepper Camp? Tomorrow, we go hunt for some lions."

In this wild, primitive corner of the world, nature — and not much else — puts on the greatest show on earth.

ELEPHANT Pepper guide Stanley Ngbonde prepares a traditional "bush breakfast" for guests beside one of the jeeps used for game drives; at left, the Maasai watchman at Elephant Pepper, who serves as guardian of the camp's top, a lion blends in with the rocks

WHEN TO GO: The best time to view Kenya's wildlife is during the dry seasons from January to March and from June to October (wildebeest migration season in the Maasai Mara).

HOW TO GET THERE: Jetlines Africa Safaris (3/F Jaramillo Center, 2350 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati; tel. 8122728 www.jetlinesafrica.com) specializes in organizing tailor-made safaris to Africa from the Philippines.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW: Philippine passport holders can obtain a 90-day Kenya tourist visa ($50) upon arrival at Jomo Kenyatta International Airport.

ELEPHANT Pepper Camp's green (above tents come equipped with eco-friendly flush toilets and traditional bucket showers. The main dining tent or "mess hall" (shown above, at left and right) is where guests share their daily adventures over homemade Italian meals.

ELEPHANT a

GRAZING growing on the grasslands of the Maasai Mara, Kenya's most famous wildlife reserve

STANLEY Ngbonde, head guide of Elephant Pepper Camp, shows guests a duffel cookbook

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Attack of the real-life 'zombies'

By Pam Pastor

Men eating other's meat, heads smacking, students, men throwing their own intestines—could a zombie apocalypse be upon us?

YOU CAN'T blame people for being concerned.

It started last month at a busy highway in Miami, where a naked man dropped eating another man's face only when police shot him dead.

It continued days later in Maryland where a college student was found to be killing his roommate and eating his brain and heart.

A few days before that, a man in San Diego licked his cookie now. Then a man in Staten Island bit off another man's ear at a restaurant.

That same week, in Brooklyn, a performer cut off his wife's lips and ate them.

The day after the Miami attack, in New Jersey, a man stabbed himself 40 times and threw his own intestines at the policemen who were trying to subdue him. His actions were described as "Zombie-like."

News of these shocking incidents have instilled fear in people, leading some to ask—is it zombie apocalypse nearing?

"Zombie apocalypse" became one of the top search terms on Google. And we thought we had to wait for fall to get our dose of "The Walking Dead."

But most of these horrific acts can be explained—some were the result of drunkenness or mental illness while others were likened on the abuse of bath salts, a lethal drug which shouldn't be confused with the kind both kids you see in the mall.

Still, many ignored logic and chose to ride the zombie train. While some found the idea of a zombie attack crazy, others thought it was funny. And they told their Twitter followers.

"Here I'd spend my days if I were a zombie: 27% growing uncontrollable fear, 68% moaning and dragging myself around and 5% doing the Thriller dance."

"If there's a zombie outbreak in Vegas... does it stay in Vegas?"

Before you many someone ask yourself, "Will they be a good killing partner during the zombie apocalypse?"

Foolish grandeur

Some decided to take the hint beyond the Internet by an exercise of poor judgment, a grandeur in whim decided it would be hilarious as pretend to be a zombie and roar running around streets to scare people while his friends captured the whole thing on video. But one of his "victims" pointed a gun at him, almost shooting him. Luckily the man didn't pull the trigger and the prankster survived he prank.

Not everyone finds the zombie apocalypse scare amusing. Although they previously released a bogus on-clock campaign on Zombie Preparedness in an effort to stress the importance of being ready for emergencies, the US Centers for Disease Control had to make an official statement to the Huffington Post saying, "CDC does not know of a virus or zombies that would reanimate the dead (or one that would prevent zombie-like symptoms)."

Despite the reassurance, others have decided to play it safe (and supersize on the issue). Americans makes Steve Hennedy manufactured special zombie bullets and people are actually buying them. Collectible people contributors are setting a significant amount of time to preparing for zombie attacks, with people stockpiling weapons and supplies and undergoing medical and defense training. In Kansas, the Battalion Air Hand-to-hand wars actually has a Zombie Preparedness Center which offers tools for zombie proofing and zombie defense. Also in Kansas, the pawn wonderground carnival corridor that used to be a zombie bullshit outside-the-box sold out.

But you don't have to wait for an apocalypse to battle against zombies. If you, that's on 12/09, website wish.co.uk will allow you to fight people dressed as zombies in an abandoned shopping mall in Berkshire for three hours. "It's the ultimate zombie experience!" the site declares. The next available date is on July 27. There are seminars available for booking until December.

In Australia, after being successfully handled by a project saved-wearing site, gaming company I.R.L. Shower is introducing Wicked Zero, a real-life role-playing shooter game that will turn you outside gigantic laser tag pass and allow you and five of your friends to fight against walkers in a zombie-infested building. But again, there's a bit of a twist...it launches on Halloween night and will only run for a month in different locations across Australia.

And there's always the cheaper alternative that won't require a passport and a visa—good old Plants vs Zombies.

Your zombie survival kit

How to make it out with your brains—and other body parts—intact

By Yuzo Yung
Contributor

AS IF finding a roommate who knows dish and respects food ownership wasn't hard enough, we now have to contend with the possibility that the stranger you are about to share a space with may end up losing your brains when the zombies attack. While the rhetoric of encountering a zombie are still slim, the news reports from different parts of the globe of zombie bite histories are enough to make any person want to be prepared for any sudden zombie-like behavior. Here are tips and tricks to keep you from being undead there.

Read the bible—the Z-bible

Max Brooks's "Zombie Survival Guide," released in 2003, is not your average mushroom-pale coffee table book. The book explores the reality of a zombie apocalypse and other survival strategies against the undead—where to hide, how to attack, what weapons to use, and includes hypothetical discussions and how to escape multi-undead.

Build an arsenal

Yes, weaponry is very important, but we advise to list down which weapons stand-a-lot we be blessed to be giving someone the idea of arming themselves against the zombies.

YUZO YUNG

for healthier sleep...

Mattress technology uses negative ions

It's a fact. Not getting a good night's sleep takes a toll on our health.

A recent article in Forbes magazine says that our mental circuits overheat when we are sleep-deprived.

Another study showed that lack of sleep has the same effect on workers as binge-drinking. Poor sleep can also lead to weight gain, irritability, and impaired concentration and judgment.

While there are many reasons people fail to get a good night's sleep, one cause that's given little attention in the mattress we lie on.

"When you lie on any part of your body for an extended period of time, the weight of it reduces the flow of blood through those blood vessels, which deprives the skin of oxygen and nutrients," says Michael Decker, PhD, spokesman for the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

"This causes nerve cells and pain sensors in your skin to send a message to your brain for you to roll over. Rolling over restores blood flow to the area, but it also briefly interrupts your sleep."

Simmons has recently launched its e-lon Crystal™ series mattress. The Simmons' e-lon Crystal™ mattress will not only reduce pressure points on the body, it will also achieve unsurpassed rest and self-rejuvenating sleep with the use of negative ions and far-infrared rays. Using 16 types of natural mineral stones, including tourmaline, the Simmons e-lon Crystal™ creates an air space filled with an abundance of negative ions, which have been clinically proven to possess therapeutic effects including reducing fatigue, stress, bacteria and viruses in the environment. They also enhance mental alertness, increased oxygen absorption in the blood stream and better sleep. The e-lon Crystal™ also has a healthy, natural form of infrared thermal energy, which alleviates the heart rate and improves blood circulation.

The Simmons' e-lon Crystal™ series is available on the Beautyrest and BackCare models.

To view and inquire about the new Simmons e-lon Crystal™ Series, visit the Beautyrest main showroom at 157 Sgt. E. Rivera St., Quezon City, Tel. 362.1111, 361.6006 and Crossbelt 5 Lifestyle showroom, Tel. 217.5388.

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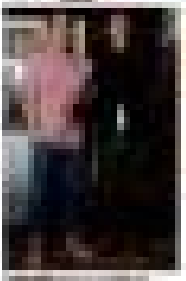
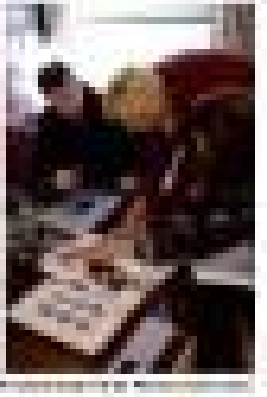
PAPASA KA BA?

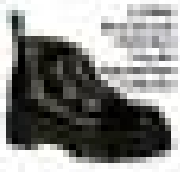
5

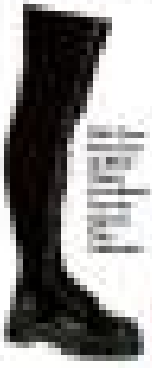
Boot camp

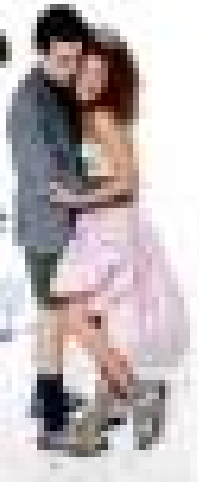
Dr. Martens is back with a vengeance in the Philippines with Borg Manalo and Andrew Llamas as the faces and are exciting upcoming collaborations with Agnes Dayi





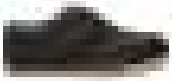


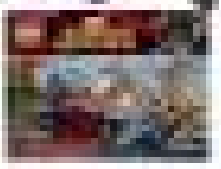




Everyone has a first and forever

Super gifts for dad





Your zombie survival kit

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The Dark Knight rises at SM Megamall

Heed the call of the bat signal this June 16 and 17 at the Event Center. Discover facts about your favorite super hero at the exclusive Dark Knight exhibit. Learn how to throw the Batarang, play the Dark Knight Helicopter and have your photos taken with the coolest Batwing.

The much-awaited Mega Toys, Hobbies and Collectibles Convention is back!

Troop to Megatrade Halls 1, 2 and 3 with your dad on June 15 to 17 for the return of the annual grand retailers and hobbyists fair. Be amazed with their most valuable collections, enjoy fun activities and bag some prizes.

Reward your hero dad with amazing finds at SM Megamall

Dads would appreciate a good walk around the mall on pairs in these lightweight sandals. Soft and comfortable to wear, made of handmade canvas and premium hemp/jute rubber outsole. **2F Building 4.**

SANUK

It is never too late to be a pilot. Give Dad the perfect hobby with the Coyote X radio controlled model kit and surf the skies for hours of fun and excitement. **LGF Building 5.**

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ADIDAS

The best smartphone for the best Dad! Reward Dad with the new Samsung Galaxy S III, quad-core android-based mobile device. **4F Cybezone.**

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THE EYE POD

For the Dad on the go, this business/corporate inspired carrying secure and hassle free. **2F Building 4.**

THE TRAVEL CLUB

Father's Day is the perfect time to keep Dad looking sharp. Reward Dad with new mod-city shirts for the best in European fashion. **2F Building A.**

DANIEL HECHTER

Playing a perfect game is easier than ever with these lightweight, professional carries. golf set. **UGF Building A.**

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LIFESTYLE Travel

TTTLE board of the exhibit

My travels with Tintin

At the Philatelic Museum I was transported, once more, to the orderly sanctuary of my childhood

AH ICONIC image from The Blue Lotus

By Ivo Manalo
Contributor

IT all began for me, decades ago, in one of the rooms of the old Makati Supermart. Amid the clutter of the magazines section, I spied an item I had never seen. It was a comic book I knew immediately was quite special.

For one thing it was hard bound. The paper was of good quality grainy and nice in touch, redolent with that distinguished fragrance of the finest comics. For another, every drawing was masterfully rendered.

My superlatives fled me: "The Prince of the Sun." It would be my introduction to the wonderful world of Tintin, the boy reporter who was the hero of the comics series conceived by the Belgian artist, Georges Remi under the pen name, Hergé.

Remi first brought out his creation in 1929 in Le Petit Vingtième, the children's supplement of a national newspaper. Since then, 25 regular titles have been produced with almost 200 million books sold in more than 50 languages.

Admittedly, I had become a fan. Every time my father took us to dinner at Casa Italiana on Padre Rada, Manila, I would slip off to visit Librairie Bonheur.

The store usually would be closed, but I would stand in front of the display window staring longingly at the Tintin volumes. I began buying cheese sandwiches for lunch in school instead of the tasty empanitas chicken just to save money for my purchases.

I even translated at the Alliance Française because not all of the titles had yet been translated from the original French!

Addicted

Looking back, I sometimes wonder why I was so addicted. I suppose it had a lot to do with the clever beauty of the drawings themselves. There were dots on the figure (faces aside).

That involved the use of clean, uniform outlines enclosing single -color zones. Without the benefit of cross hatching for shading, things managed to conjure images which were dynamic and nuanced.

For someone growing up in a tumultuous, eruptive country, I found comforting the more yet dynamic universe which emerged from the pen of my beloved Belgian artist.

Tintin and his friends were very entertaining. There was Haddock, the short-tempered host of a sea-captain tales, though lovable, was a tragic reminder of the still-removed demonstrations of alcohol dependency.

There was the partially deaf genius Professor Calculus whose eccentricity and hairline I vainly prayed I would not emulate.

Then there was dear Snowy, Tintin's dog and constant companion, strangely omniscient and admirable even in palaces and opera houses.

Extended family

Life would not be complete without villains and, dear, me, some deliciously perverse fakirs, bums, potentates, dripping

ART TRAVELS P4

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Where to Stop Where to Go

Giving dad the best day at Makati Shangri-La

AT THE Makati Shangri-La, Manila, per daddies in the limelight with special offerings that the whole family may enjoy to commemorate Father's Day on June 17. It's the perfect sanctuary for him and the whole family with special room rates starting at P6,500 net for a Superior Room, including a hearty buffet breakfast for two at Circles Event Café.

Dads may also enjoy a stay in rooms at the Horizon Club or in any of the hotel's suites, which includes a complimentary bottle of wine upon check-in, an additional P1,000 spa credit, and all-day access to the Horizon Club Lounge, available for hotel residents with valid identification on Father's Day from 10:00 to 17.

The whole family may feast on a bountiful helping of Asian and western offerings at Circles Event Café with a scrumptious buffet for Father's Day weekend on June 16 and 17.

Fathers who dine in can enjoy a complimentary glass of wine while enjoying the dinner buffet at P1,950 net. For a refreshing beverage with an added zing, guests may opt to try Circles Event Café's Drink of the Month, Apple Champagne, available during lunch and dinner at P270 net.

Guests who dine in any of the hotel's restaurants until June 15 may be eligible to join "My Dad and Me, Good Times with Dad" Photo Contest of Makati Shangri-La for Father's Day, wherein diners may submit their photo in a special branding museum with their fathers. Qualifying photos will receive a gift certificate to dine at Circles Event Café for lunch or dinner buffet, while the grand winner will receive a two-night weekend stay for a family of four with buffet breakfast. Terms and conditions apply.

For more reservations, please call 813-8888 or e-mail reservations.dine@shangri-la.com. For restaurant reservations, please call the Restaurants Reservations and Information Center at 848-0984 or e-mail rric.dine@shangri-la.com. Terms and conditions apply for "Me and My Dad, Good Times with Dad" Photo Contest, see DTI Permit No. IG-0413, Series of 2012.

Brunch at Radisson Blu Cebu

RISE UP, dad and the whole family with a hearty Father's Day brunch. Highlights include mouth-watering international culinary delicacies such as English Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding, Pork Salt Baked Salmon, Pan-seared Foie Gras, an assortment of seafood and a selection of French pastries at Horizon only P1,388 nett per person from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Simply add Petit for an exceptional champagne and wine buffet. Book this special room package from June 15 to 17 at P10,000 net per person, twin sharing in a Superior Room, inclusive of a welcome treat of baby-made gourmet ice cream for the family, a special Father's Day gift, buffet breakfast on Sunday, brunch for two adults at Horizon, and complimentary stay with breakfast for two children under 12 years old. The Radisson Blu Hotel Cebu is managed by Carlson Rezidor Hotel Group, one of the world's largest and most dynamic hotel groups with more than 1,200 hotels, a global footprint spanning 81 countries and 94 cities. Guests at Radisson Blu Hotel Cebu enjoy the loyalty program Club Carlson, one of the most rewarding loyalty programs in the world. For inquiries and reservations please call (032) 402-9800 or e-mail reservations.cebu@radisson.com or visit www.radisson-blu.com.ph/hotel-cebu.

'Best Daddy in the World' at Lancaster Hotel

LANDMARK'S Hotel Manila knows how you love your dad so much and how special you want his day to be. That's why its "Best Daddy in the World" package fits just right. Until June 30, book a room for only P5,799 net per night and enjoy buffet breakfast for two, Father's Day plate with one glass of wine, complimentary Internet connection and complimentary shuttle service to Shoppes shopping mall. Dads also receive special gifts from Jockey, SO Barber Shop, Bally Store Event and Foot Spa. Lancaster Hotel Manila is conveniently located at Shaw Blvd. in Mandaluyong City, a few hundred meters away from the busy intersection of crossing along EDSA. The "Best Daddy in the World" package rate is inclusive of service charge and applicable government taxes. Prior reservation is required and subject to space availability. For more information, call (632) 533-1915; fax (632) 532-1808, or log on to www.lancasterhotels.com.ph or e-mail reservations@lancasterhotels.com.ph.

Toast to tatay at Tagaytay's Annie's

THIS coming Father's Day, Annie's American Comfort Cuisine, the best place for honest-to-goodness family dining, came up with a menu composed especially for the most important man of the house. Dad will absolutely adore the Chicken and Pork Adobo, Crispy Kare-Kare, and the delectable Crispy Pata. For dessert, surrender to the soft delicacy of the Mangga Sapiña, an extraordinary take on the classic rice cake dessert with creamy coconut custard and toasted coconut bits. From June 16 to 17, a fantastic Father's Day weekend awaits dad and his family. Savor the crispy and tender Country Style Fried Chicken, yummy Baked Potato Wedges, tasty Onion Rings, delectable Pasta Bolognese, and the satisfying Creamy Mushroom Soup, to be finished off with plenty of the sweet Chocolate Mousse and especially-created Meatballs. Annie's American Comfort Cuisine is located in the ground floor of the Summit Ridge Hotel, Km. 58 Mahabhab Road, General Emilio Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City. For inquiries, call 240-0888 loc. 1110, 240-0888 or (0922) 822-6800.

Dad's the best at Eastwood Richmonde

FOR A weekend-long celebration in his honor, indulge dad with the Father's Day Room Package available from June 16 and 17, and starting at only P4,400 net. This includes one night accommodations with breakfast buffet and a choice between the Father's Day lunch and dinner buffet for two on June 17. Guests who avail of this package are also entitled to a P200 discount on additional Father's Day buffet covers. No-Frills Room Packages, inclusive of overnight accommodations and buffet breakfast for two persons, are also available on Father's Day weekend, with rates starting at P1,400 net. A P200 discount will also be extended to guests availing themselves of this package. For inquiries and reservations, you may call 630-1777 or send an e-mail to emdmktgroom@red.com.ph. Eastwood Richmonde Hotel is located at 17 Orchard Road, Eastwood City, Bagumbayan, Quezon City 1110, Philippines. Canada-Eastwood Mall. Across from the Malls is at the second level. For more information on Eastwood Richmonde Hotel, log on to www.richmondehotel.com.

Indulge dad at the Quan Spa

THIS June, share a fun way to uniquely indulge a great leader of the family—dad! At Sky Hall Manila, a hands-down way to reward a hard-working member of the family is by taking him at De Quan Spa, where he'll do to experience a whole new 'way' to wholesome and wellness. Featuring Pevonia Detox massage for only P1,800 net, this two-hour treatment is designed for eliminating, detoxifying, and toning while taking away toxins and impurities of the body. This revered treatment for two hours is using Pevonia's renowned energy harmonizing with nourishing extracts, guaranteed to restore and refresh a tired body. For inquiries or reservations, call 888-9999.

Family hero deserves tasty treats at Cravings

DEAR BOB, a boon to family restaurant for heart-warming comfort food, no grumpy dads that hand knock-'em awards to celebrations of Father's Day. On June 17, dine with your father and we price him with the delectable goodness of Roast Pork au Sweet Wine Sauce. Not only will he enjoy the smoky flavor of his favorite roast dish made special by the specialty concoction sauce, he also gets to have a bag of goodies and other treats courtesy of Cravings. Cravings branches are in Kalayaan, BC (435-6031 to 38, 435-1029), Bisaya-Le Plaza (882-3699-88721, Fraser Plaza, Makati (519-4271), Tomas Morato, QC (426-0736), Fernbrook Super Mall, Alabang (850-8337) and Eastwood Mall, Libis (470-3000). You may also visit their cravingsgroup.com for more information or Like its Facebook page: cravingsphilippines.

Freedom fiesta at Basix

INCLUSIVE TO all the Philippines' 114th National Independence Day, David Thani Manila's Basix All-Day Dining Restaurant and grows cook on specializing tastes of Mexico with a weekend long garden social, beat featuring Filipino cuisine until June 17. The new set menu in Fiesta, the resort's most spectacular outdoor celebration waiting to happen! Mind your appetite as you highlight various regional cuisines prepared by skilled chefs in the resort and dinner buffet. Discover the rich flavors of our culture as you sample a variety of specialty dishes such as Bringhe, Sinigang, Bicol Express, Bacolod Chicken Inasal, and Ilo-Ilong Lomang Pagpo! Inclusive of an unlimited beverage, avail of the lunch buffet from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at P1,400 nett per person, and the dinner buffet from 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at P1,600 nett per person. In partnership with the Department of Tourism, it's time to discover how celebrations are definitely more fun in the Philippines. Basix All-Day Dining Restaurant is located at the Ground Level of David Thani Manila. Above of celebrated restaurant/food festivals, Basix is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. For inquiries and reservations, please call the Restaurant Reservations Desk at 259-8888.

'Daddy's Day Out' at Seven Suites

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My travels with Tintin

From page F1

magnates, drugs smugglers, dropping mag-nates who were drugs-smugglers.

This colorful cast represented an extended family which was far from conventional. Writers have observed that the protagonists in stories for teenagers do not seem to have traditional family ties.

Think of Nancy Drew who had only a father and a house-keeper as well as extraordinarily long summer vacations. Think of Harry and the question arises: Was Snoopies Dave's love child?

The more inquisitive may likewise wonder: Where were Tintin's parents? Offspring? Forgetmenots?

Perhaps for the adventurous, the whole world was family. The lack of ties bestowed exhilarating freedom and greater disposable income which was not shared with greedy siblings. One never had to finish chores or ask permission. One could skip off to exotic outdoors at the drop of a mysterious note.

A lot of skipping off certainly did occur in Herge's realm. It was with Tintin that I first learned the world. He took me to Africa, South America, even the Arctic.

Herge invested a lot of research in the making of his strips. Backdrops were never generic. Each city scene or landscape was lovingly devised to capture the look and flavor of the actual site.

Secret satisfaction

In a way, Tintin helped me cop along on other journeys. If other kids provided Surprise relishes who were going abroad with outlines of their feet, I helpfully distributed lists of Tintin titles I lacked. I will always be grateful to my aunts Chona, Gene, Liris, Marilyn, and Lalay for humoring my child-hood infirmity.

Pandering to my childish desires could also have its advantages. I can still relish my mother's secret satisfaction when, after being handed a Tintin adventure in a British bookshop, she softly declared: "I'm sorry, but I was looking for the original in French."

Given all these then, I was glad to find, on a recent trip, that the Singapore Philatelic Museum had set up an exhibition of Tintin stamps. The Philatelic is a little jewel of the Lion City.

Its lovely building named 'Me' in 1906 as part of the Anglo-Chinese School, Moulmein-lovely museum, the school-turned-museum opened in 1995 as Asean's first postal gallery.

The exhibits at the Philatelic are delightful and full of surprises. Who would have guessed that where the designs from tiny stamps are enlarged they could dominate whole rooms?

Featured themes range from plants to heritage professions. It is the combination of playfulness and the care for exploration which ensures that Herge's characters would be right at home.

The Tintin Exhibit showcases stamps issued in honor of the boy reporter by Belgium, France, and the Netherlands. I espe-

INTRODUCTORY panels of the Tintin exhibit. Here are photos of Georges Remi.

A SIGN in the cafe area of the Tintin Shop

Herge's creation to the big screen. When my host insisted on bringing me to the Tintin Shop on Dagmin Road, I knew that reunion was futile.

To a devotee, the Tintin Shop is like the modern ship. My favorite hero was everywhere. He was on bags and mugs. He was incarnated as little statuettes.

My top pick was a special collector's edition of The Black Island. It had been encased in hard-cover with many illustrations and glossy pages. Someone out there was obsessed!

Much later, I laughed as I listened to my otherwise very serious colleague explain with obvious relish that Singapore appears to use of Tintin's adventures. Though admittedly-our kind had never been to the island to public, it is at least interested in Cigars of the Pharaoh as part of a vicarious itinerary that would eventually be aborted.

When I got back home, I was with some amusement that I surveyed my own copy of Cigars. Examining the map of Tintin's proposed party of call, I saw that Eric was right—Singapore was indeed there.

Then suddenly I saw it: at the extreme right of the map was the unmistakable outline of Luzon. The Philippines was part of Tintin's world!

Over the years, traveling with Tintin and his crew has brought me many pleasures. But the least of these is the unexpected joy of meeting a kindred spirit with whom one could share moments of fun in the course of official duties.

It was, likewise, good to be reminded of how heartening it was for a boy growing up to know that, while looking at the very same Tintin books, a certain reporter with his loyal dog, other children throughout the planet were also smiling, smiling all together.

The Tintin exhibit runs until June 26. The writer wishes to thank Eric Tan, Lizelle Bay, Tumaneng Peñaloza, and Jocelyn Cecilio assistance with this article. Jimel quotients or comments on the article to tumaneng@gmail.com.

ONE of the many wonderful displays at the Philatelic Museum, which is shown at left; below, left, an overview of the museum's Tintin exhibit.

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'Islands Insider' reveals culture and history of Philippines' travel sites

FOR most Filipinos toting the idea of travel means going to a distant place or another country to enjoy its breathtaking scenery, colorful festivities, amazing food, and exciting night markets.

Most of these travels are often packed with fun-paced activities that one can easily fall to see, understand, and appreciate the real beauty of the place—its history and culture.

This June, National Geographic Channel (NGC) with the Department of Tourism will showcase the unique culture and amazing history of six of the country's world-class destinations in "Islands Insider."

"Islands Insider" features six episodes that seek to reveal the cultural and historical base of some of the most compelling sites in the country: Bataan Rice Terraces in Mountain Province, Cuneta in Palawan, Taal and Antilles in Batangas, Ifugao and Mt. Pulag in Benguet.

"Islands Insider: Bataan Rice Terraces" premieres this June while the rest of the episodes will be shown soon after.

"Islands Insider" producer Gregpay Hamoy-en of Tin Kin's Mix Productions said they used cinematic photography to highlight the visual appeal of the locations and put greater emphasis on issues that threaten the existence of the sites to foster a better understanding and appreciation of preservation and conservation.

"Tourism destinations are not static. They evolve and deteriorate over time so they need to be preserved for the benefit and enjoyment of future generations," Hamoy-en said.

NGC vice president and secretary head for Philippines Jude Turriano said they were happy to support the project because it showed the world sites in a different perspective that highlighted the need for conservation, a goal which NGC advocates.

"It is also our way of supporting the Department of Tourism's 30-more-fun in the Philippines campaign to promote the country's best sites to the world," Turriano said.

Visit www.ngcpe.com.

A MUMBAI visualization by Urbanus as the world-famous Bataad Rice Terraces in Mountain Province.

Editor Nestor U. Torre • Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

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NOW SHOWING

Tom Cruise hits all the right notes

By Rito P. Asilo

CRUISE AND ZETA-JONES. Portray aging rock star and mayor's wife, respectively, in "Rock-inspired tuneless musical.

NEITHER HARD work nor will power can turn Tom Cruise's voice into the manly pipes of Freddie Mercury, Steven Tyler, Dennis DeYoung, Peter Cetera or Adam Lambert—that's simply a scientific impossibility. Because an exceptional voice is a special gift more than an instrument acquired through rigorous training.

But, "Rock of Ages" is a commendable testament to what hard work and will power can accomplish for a superstar in utter need of intervention—and we're glad to note that the risks Tom Cruise has taken have paid off beautifully (and musically). In fact, he is the best thing about Adam Shankman's crowd-pleasing screen version of Chris D'Arienzo's '80s-inspired "jukebox" rock musical.

Search for love

With Shankman ("Hairspray") and choreographer Mia Michaels at the helm, the movie thrills with kitschy verve and wrinkling fun as it follows a small-town girl and a city boy's search for love and musical stardom in late '80s LA.

Sherrie (Julianne Hough) and Drew Boley's (Diego Boneta) Hollywood dreams begin to take shape when they meet—as waitress and all-around reward boy, respectively—at Bourne Dupree's (Alec Baldwin) Bourbon Room, a legendary rock joint that happens to be on its last financial crutch.

It doesn't help that the mayor's rock-hating, Bible-quoting wife, Patricia Whitmore (the gloriously scene-stealing Catherine Zeta-Jones), is out to rid the former Strip of "filth, sin, and rock's rob—a theme with no end."

Dennis and his consequent assistant, Lonny (Russell Brand), are a bright light at the end of the tunnel, however, when exclusive rock god, Stacee Jaxx (Cruise), agrees to perform at the Bourbon before he embarks on a solo career. Problem is, the hotshot-ess superstar is so unreliable as he is brilliant!

Worse, Jaxx even ends up tripping Sherrie and Drew's romance in the bud, without his knowing it—a development that drives the former to take a job as go-go dancer, and throws the latter into the limelight, as the hip-hop- and rap-

TOM CU

Merry mix from Ogie, Michael V

By Nestor U. Torre

ARTIC duo ages for greater diversification.

FOR MANY years now, the comedy teams of Ogie Alcasid and Michael V has proven itself as a bankable draw in a number of hit programs, including some "unconsidered" comedy and game shows.

In their latest joint outing, "Here & Now," Ogie and Michael opt for even greater diversification by going in the different formats that include funny interviews, musical skits and even a "Six Degrees of Separation" portion that delights viewers with its packaged brilliance and successfully attempts to link any and all entertainment stars in all sorts of real and imagined relationships.

Batting average

In all of these gambits, the artists's main objective is to make viewers laugh—and as far as that goes, the show's batting average is high. "Blame" it in part on the inventiveness of some of the new show's features...as well as on its two hosts' time-tested rapport with one another.

Indeed, in some respects, the "Ogie-Mike" tandem works so seamlessly together that it conjures up recollections of Pugo-Tugo and Dolphy-Panchito. ...Are they Ogie and Michael are trying to imitate those "classic" teams, because they really love doing their own thing.

Last Sunday, their show's main guest was Darleen Luna, whom they kept ribbing that in her reported involvement with an older comedian. The guy's identity was kept a private joke throughout the long feature on Darleen, but part of the humor sprang from the fact that everyone, including the show's crusty stewards, was "in" on the not-so-private joke.

To her credit, Darleen was "game" enough to take the heats'

FERRY G

FANS' DAY

'Mareng' Winnie is a joy to watch

By Andy Bax

WONDER. Asks insightful questions.

LIZZY HENGAN, television: "Mareng Winnie Monsod is a joy to watch on 'Rated Ang Pasweng,' because of her insightful questions and her formidable manner of explaining the issues. A recent telecast tackling the MMDA ad ban government officials did not take no answer for granted.

"Mareng Winnie is one of Bgtlish was she communicable—she's explained of the fact that not all viewers would fully comprehend her if she spoke only in English."

Other views:

Arturo Galvez, GMA: "Every week again, it always excites me to watch 'Walang Hanggan,' because of Gary Valenz's great portrayal. —Hats off to the director for sense!"

Thelma Maebel, student: "TNS upcoming talent search, 'Artista Academy,' is considered groundbreaking, not only because of its methodless-pose

petitive, but also because the E-ranker will undergo competitive training.

"Hopefully this will be an improvement on past searches, where winners were determined by text votes. Sadly, a good number of past winners didn't really become stars. The talent search also poses a challenge for the network—to discover and develop its own stable of big stars, not just those

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Daniel Padilla waxes serviceable covers in debut album

PADILLA. His hit Tito Robin's magnetic presence and cheeky swagger.

By Rito P. Asilo

DANIEL PADILLA has his Tito Robin's magnetic presence and cheeky swagger—and, when he sings, as he does in his eponymously titled debut album, he escapes for the last notes of a song with a generally mature tone's sounds eerily like his uncle's, more notably in his covers of Orient Pearl's "Pagsubok" and 6Cyclemind's "Presence."

Given Robin's "Dutch record" as an occasional singer (who released "His Voice," a compilation of his recordings last year), however, that initial note about the quality of Daniel's voice may not seem encouraging for a first-time recording artist.

But, if you listen closely to the young artist's repertoire, you'll be pleasantly surprised that he's actually an improvement on the Padilla template—because his weaknesses are serviceable, regardless of whether they've been appropriately "tweaked" and polished by the Antoinette technology artist. Moreover, his mom, Karla Estrada, is in stunch at singing—she even released a solo album in 1995.

High notes

Because his adolescent voice is still stabilizing, Daniel usually relies on tonal placements (NOT B-Cs, C's "Pinoy version Mo") to ensure his high notes, which are best demonstrated in his rendition of Adam Sandler's "Grow Old With You" and Lyne's "Hate's In Yo. Ba'y Mine," made more memorable by James Quesquen's lovely drama-and-strings arrangement.

The boy wonder hints that can his ability and range, and is influenced by the breezy crooning style of Michael Bublé (his idol), which probably explains his idiosyncratic phrasing—as his vocal arrangers' observant. If he continues to hone his craft, as a singer, we envision a musical future for Daniel that's brighter than that enjoyed by some of the entertainment industry's woefully challenged heartthrobs!

Padilla also acquits himself well in his remake of Rico Blanco and Boomsara's "Hina hanap Hinap Rito"—but, the earlier track is characterized by an unfinished quality that exposes the rough edges of the teen idol's voice. So, until he irons out those vocal kinks, it's best for Daniel to stick to his day job!

Tom Cruise bits . . . From page G1

recording frontman of a boyband!

Shankman effortlessly captures the throbbing energy of the musical medium and creates winsome portrayals—as well as memorable (as journalist Gretchen Sisk, Joss's premier paramour), Mary J. Blige (as gorgeous strip club mama, Jazmyn) and Paul Giamatti (as Joss's crooked manager) take center stage.

Monotonous

Unfortunately, the film, which "we admit" some of the stage version's plotlines to cover the movie closer to the CP number, is unable to sustain the momentum set by its show-stopping production numbers (featuring the music of Journey that Brenner, Bon Jovi, Foreigner, Pointed Sisters, Ben Speerbergen, Blink, etc.) and laugh-out-loud comedic flourishes (watch out for Shankman and Hewitt's zany "I Wanna Know What Love Is" segment), especially when into "dramatic" moments follows its refreshing musical numbers.

And, while the musical began its run on the big screen as a 2005 stage production in LA., its film version has been preempted by Steve Jacobs's (read: recording 20 Centurial Kinchfest, "Footloose," that paired Christian Bgulleru with Chris "Footloose" follows an almost identical storyline), and its cast also includes Hough—as Applebee's many turnsaid.

Joss the name, "Birds of Spry" is a musical, because it innovatively the dazzling mash transformation of the supposedly humdrum Kmart items, who outshinely fudges the line between parlors and physical assembly-room as he renders his songs with conviction, panache and head-banging flair. See you! Insist out, Daniel Jay Lewis!

Merry mix from Ogie, Michael V From page G1

good-natured ribbing in stride. After a while, however, the repeated cue allusions to Pandora's (sic) to insert spaces began to feel rather long in the tooth due to sheer repetition. A shorter format would have been exactly right. —Enter Jude—and right on time.....now time!

In some aspects, "Here & Here" is on greater, as far as its merry mix of business and production approaches go—than its dyad self, the show occasionally reminds us of another diverting comedy variety program currently on the tube, hosted by Vice Ganda.

The two shows are similarly hybrid and varied in their approaches, but Vice's comes off as the edgier, more unpredictable and anarchic show, due to its solo host's signature chockiness.

For their part, Ogie and Michael opt for more pleasant and less "bastard" humor...but, if they can find it to be somehow to beat up their act some more, it could be a well-come progression, because their "pleasant" approach can feel a bit old-sometimes.

That's an unspoken challenged for TV stars who have been successful in their game for more than a decade. Sometimes, the arrival of

'Mareng' Winnie is a joy to watch From page G3

coming from its competitors."

Gamie Kissun, movie enthusiast, "The Philippine Popular Music Festival or Philfest, a competition for amateur and professional songwriters, may be the industry's answer to the dominance of technically novelty tunes and R-pop on the airwaves today. I hope it opens doors for new composers to join the

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4: LOCK OUT
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TRINOMA

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3: ROCK OF AGES (3D)
4: SNOW WHITE & THE HUNTSMAN
5: ROCK OF AGES
6: MADAGASCAR 3
7: KIMMY DORA & THE TEMPLE OF KIYAK

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2: MADAGASCAR 3 / SNOW WHITE
3: ROCK OF AGES
4: KIMMY DORA & THE TEMPLE OF KIYAK

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7: KIMMY DORA & THE TEMPLE OF KIYAK

ABREEZA

1: ROCK OF AGES
2: PROMETHEUS
3: KIMMY DORA & THE TEMPLE OF KIYAK
4: MADAGASCAR 3 / SNOW WHITE

HARBOR POINT

1: ROCK OF AGES
2: KIMMY DORA & THE TEMPLE OF KIYAK
3: MADAGASCAR 3 (3D) / SNOW WHITE (3D)
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SATURDAY Special

AM/FM

Francine Prieto hosts 'Xtra Xervice' on Wow FM

By Nitz P. Avila

PRIETO: Comprehensive medium.

FRANCINE PRIETO has had a lot of personal and career-related upheavals in the past couple of years. But the lively Filipina Koreyjan actress refuses to succumb to life's dispiriting detours.

In fact, she continues to pursue exciting endeavors that unanimously stretch her artistic prowess and performing mettle. From her early foray into comedy, her only element with Bobby Pittar and her stints in TV comedies and dramas, she has found a new enthusiastic conquest: Radio.

Unfortunately, "Ka-Ooto," Francine's hit radio show with former flame, Bobby Yeo, on 88.9 failed not long after their relationship went sour. Happily, 88.9FM's loss is 90.3's gain. Francine's playful candor and bouncy is in full bloom in her latest gabfest, "Xervice," which she co-hosts Monday through Friday (9 p.m.–12 midnight) with the irreverent Jethro Tells and Herb Dale.

The show is also popular for its "SOP (Sikreto o Problema)" segment, which discusses—and joins listeners' immediate concerns and problems. What's notable about the show in the first that, while they don't shy away from gossip (jokes and videos of "lasuki" (shower or passing listeners), they're aware that there are lines that broadcasters shouldn't cross, because of the medium's multigenerational reach.

When we raised as to their independence Day episode last Tuesday, Francine, Bob and Dolbert had a lot of fun exchanging pickup lines with their avid listeners (sample: "Francine, sana ill ka sa lang pumisang nawala ka, akin sa lang ako ha." To which the hosts had a ready answer, "Ipik-ka ka? D'ay ang sarap nang mahalin?") and discussing sunday replies to the Question of the Day. When was the last time you felt free?

A listener felt emancipated after parting off all her debts; a young girl got her taste of freedom when she was given her own room; a woman braved a sigh of relief when she broke up with her abusive boyfriend, and a co-security said that he felt free when he stopped playing with women's feelings, etc.

An answer from a student of Pamantasan was notable due to Francine's reaction: "I felt free after my husband and I separated. Now, I have a boyfriend who always makes me feel good about myself. I love him so much—and his name is Bobby." —Francine's widening, colorful reactions: "Sabihin mo sa boyfriend mo, pahiram ito ang pangalan (for) daughter!"

A grin of salt, 'localike' and other boob-tube booboos

By Nestor U. Torre

THANKS TO all of our readers who said they enjoyed our "Interview" of Heidi Sabe Bautista last month. One good turn deserves another, so here's a (mid)-batch of humorous(ly) edited interviews on TV-ese highlights of our day.

How: Why did you put up this new store?

Guest: It has an environment friendly to it, because we put it up especially for senior citizens!

(Yawn, snore!)

* * *

How: How did you take the bad reaction to your last show?

Guest: Well, you cannot please everybody! I just took it all with a pinch of salt.

(—We guess you would do so like that as—a salty sender)

* * *

How: Tell us about your new facial product.

Guest: It's especially configured for middle-aged women, to keep them smooth and young at heart!

(Wow, configurated!)

* * *

How: Why are there so many earthquakes these days?

Guest: It must be the change in the world due to global warming!

(—Ah! So wrinkling you can more quick like that, and—!)

* * *

How: Since you had many jobs before you became successful as an actor?

Guest: Oh yes...Dead to...

Host: Gin you tell us some of them?

Guest: Well, I started out as a cold waiter.

(At the same time? —That's what we call multitasking!)

* * *

Host: Your skin is so smooth and beautiful now—but, I hear it was not always that way?

Guest: Oh, yes, it was terrible—when I was a teenager. I suffered from a lot of pimples!

(Did you work in a bowling alley? —Oh, pimples?)

* * *

How: If your acting career [illegible]

5 new shows win raves

LOS ANGELES—Kevin Bacon's new franchise "The Following," HBO's upcoming "The Newsroom," and the Fox comedy "The Mindy Project" were among five TV shows deemed the most promising new series this season.

USA's political drama, "Political animals," starring Sigourney Weaver as a former First Lady turned US secretary of State, and ABC's upcoming country music drama, "Nashville," were also voted the "most exciting new series" by the Broadcast Television Journalists Association.

BTJA members rated the hunk of pilots and early episodes made available to journalists, the five shows looked the most promising among the more than 30 new scripted shows that will be vying for audiences in the next few months.

"These freshman series have already captured our attention, and we can't wait to see how they evolve over the course of the season," said BTJA president Amy Reiter. Last year, the group picked Zooey Deschanel's "New Girl," the Broadway backstage drama "Smash," and the serial series "Pulling Skies" as likely midseason favorites. —Reuters

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Proactive viewers should support AnakTV's key missions

TV has become the alternative "classroom" of many young Filipinos.

By Nimrod G. Toro

HARBOR LAND rules cannot entirely control the negative effects that television viewing may have on children should get reconcile with Anak TV (tel. no. 9215 152-2190, or visit www.anaktv.net, until, which has been conducting a nationwide campaign for responsible TV viewership, especially for the protection of young viewers.

The need to become more vigilant and proactive in regards to TV's effect on children is under scored by some disturbing statistics.

On average, the Filipino child, by age 10, shall have viewed a total of 10,000 hours of television (great, bad or indifferent)—as compared to the 12,000 hours he shall have spent to attend to some religious, therefore, TV has become the alternative "classroom" of many young Filipinos—and we shudder to contemplate what they "learn" from it.

Other statistics detail what TV "teaches" like 101, spine-chilling, body-shivering and sublimal, really frighty poison of supposedly prudent programs (like cartoons) it hours-at-a-short acts. Thirty-three thousand is the estimated number of murders and acts TV. Nearly half of the Philippines' population (over 46 million to spend 10 years or younger. Therefore, in many respects, what goes for our young viewers goes for the nation as a whole.

Growth

More: There are literally hundreds of TV shows to view for us to choose from—but only five of those are locally produced children's programs! And yet, TV channels are required by law to devote a significant percentage of their locally produced programs to shows that develop the young viewer to all of the sense of his potential good for a person and member of society.

Is your child at risk from "textbook" and "unfamiliar" TV? What can you do about it? Call AnakTV for help—and offer to support and implement to key initiatives in new —And, while you're at it, watch out for those danger signs, which AnakTV says could indicate trouble already brewing in your home:

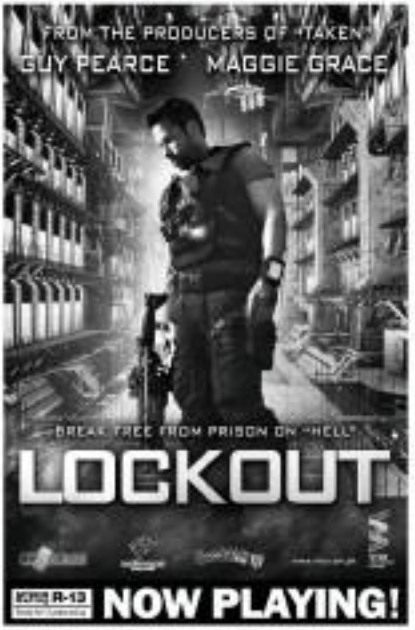
Your televiewing or even TV-addicted children getting fat. He lacks exercise and eats too much. He spends too much time doing something TV, and doesn't interact enough with other people and the big, wide world around him.

He believes like a commercial and talks "show biz" all the time. When shopping, he insists on buying familiar brands advertised on TV. He wants to get rich quick, and thus dreams of becoming a star, singer, dancer —or champion boxer!

Activities

In school, he's got his grades. With his peers, he's obsessed with how he looks and dresses—a bit normal in reading. He's bored with reading and his spelling has deteriorated. Because TV can be hypnotic, he's frequently late for activities. He spends more hours watching TV than talking to his parents and friends.

He determines the shows he wants to watch, with little or no parental supervision. —As far as reporting the household habits—choosing "healthy" shows for your children wisely, don't hesitate over,



Bernal helms 'Kimmy Dora' sequel

BERNAL: "Filmmaking is a creative and collaborative endeavor."

By Rica Arevalo

LAST MONTH, we visited director Joyce Bernal at the blockbusting Innovator Filmmaking Workshop, where she lectured to young filmmakers. Over lunch, she shared the "secret" of her success and recalled: "I learned before I was my drinking buddies!"

Bernal credits her success Edgardo "Boy" Vinarao, for her decision to persevere in the movie industry. She observes, "A person's experiences are very useful in directing. They tell differently, are you from other filmmakers. Para parehu lang naman kasi ang mga drama, pare-parehu ma de-gending or how you execute them."

Her tip to aspiring filmmakers: "Be open, because filmmaking is a creative and collaborative endeavor—and, dream big!" Unknown to many, Bernal's dream project is a sex drama ("I want something with grit!").

Bernal fears comedy and has cut in the comedy sequel, "Kimmy Dora & the Temple of Kiyeme." She reasons, "We cannot the history of the ruins' family and here it is affected by the new mother."

What were the challenges they encountered when the production shot in Siem during winter? She replies, "It was shocking! A member of the crew said she wanted to go home, but I told her it's the same any temp! That was how difficult it was!"

How was it working with former flamings this time around? Bernal notes, "She's more confident...relentless daytrack, market, museum—Kaya siya tawag! Ingat pa rin pero she's more confident in the shots. It was a compliment juggling us for her—for, she came through with flying colors!"

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ROCK OF AGES

Putting the National Artist awards in perspective

By Nestor U. Torre

OUR DECEMBRISTE article on the National Artist awards have apparently stirred a hornet's nest of summary views, especially from proponents of "iconic" actors and presumptive nominees for the society's top artistic honor, who resent our claim that "emotion is opposite to intelligence."

Some of them harangue us with follow-up questions meant to badger us into a rhetorical corner, while others accuse us of all sorts of nefarious motives for "disrupting" the achievements of some much-loved icons—which is by no means our intention.

The good thing in this orders of debates and diatribes is that more people are getting those advise "lowered" in the many complicated issues surrounding the awards.

Our hope is that the dust will eventually settle and more objective minds will prevail, so that the prized honor will be able to regain some of its lost glory—and credibility.

That's why we think it's imperative that the currently ongoing search for the next batch of awardees be deferred until the Supreme Court finally rules on the case that has been put before it for many months now. Otherwise, the mushrooming legion of unresolved questions will make the already contentious situation that much more difficult to figure out!

DE LEON: Is he one in five?

Queries

One of the badgering queries we have been "dared" to answer goes this way: "What do you think deserves to be made the next National Artist for Film?"

Honestly, we would prefer to keep the discussion on the level of ideas rather than specific personalities—but, upon reflection, we've decided to take the points they've raised on board, in the perhaps hubristic hope that we can help imbue the screenwriting debate with greater pertinence and clarifying force.

—And so, to resolutely inch in where more cautious angels fear to tread.

To date, the field of film and broadcast arts has elevated only a few senior directors to the rank of National Artist. Nine in fact, to use hopefully objective nomenclature, could be: Gregorio Fernandez, Ramon Estella, Manuel Silos and Mike de Leon.

Ah, say "could," because the talking and lobbying process has set as its underwriters for each of these, and the is where the less "provable" nominees are winnowed out.

There's also the matter of the availability of "prime faces" panel, especially in the case of filmmakers from the '50s and '60s, whose masterworks are no longer on cans.

Reviews

In such instances, we have to go by the witness of reviews, as really old film buffs who are still recall those exceptional movies in sufficiently corroborative detail.

For instance, Estella made film but relatively obscure movies, some of them documentaries not even shown the Philippines but also with a constituent Asian scope and pertinence—but, how many people can recall them and vouch for their value, many decades after the fact?

And yet, all of the names we've mentioned need to be researched, examined and vetted—with a chronological preference—so, it stands to reason that Mike de Leon, despite the relative availability of his movies, will have to wait a round or two before he's deservedly honored.

In addition to the filmmakers we've cited, other gifted practitioners of the craft and art of cinema could logically be proposed, including some of the "iconic" actors whose issue has been recently pushed by their avid advocates.

In the actors' case, however, the additional issues of "body of work" and "consistency of body of achievement" have to be addressed.

Finally, in all the fuss and cry, the "emotion is opposite to interpretation" factor has to be contextualized. And, the Supreme Court first has to legally settle the adjudicative controversy surrounding the last round of awardees. All else would be the disembodied ranting opposite of an itchiness!

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MOVIES SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

A grin of salt...

From page H1

makes you a star by next year, how will you spend your earnings?

Gonzo: Definitely for my family. I'm this family breadwinner!

(—for the family breadwinner!)

* * *

Host: What would you be doing now, if you were not an actor?

Daniel: Holiday-ing-ang pagpapag morning ay, pare makatulog pa rin sa aking mga magulang (Good lord!)

* * *

Host: I hear, in the premiere, you are known as an impersonator of Sharon Cuneta?

Gonzo: No, I am known as one of the hostile of Sharon

(Icebkiller? "Love Her!" Cute!)

* * *

Host: After the successful operation of your friend, what was your group's reaction?

Daniel: We all had sorigo of relief!

(Ah, some spirit!)

* * *

Host: To whom do you dedicate your new album?

Daniel: I would like to lovingly dedicate

Proactive

From page H1

because they have their own winning preferences, as well—and "building" many of them are not!

If your child runs poorly on the about shoulder, it's key to realize that your family needs help—and to take avenues, of action—to escape the potentially addictive hold of TV on your children.

Aside TV can help. But, you must also help yourself if you realize that parental experience is a must in transforming the "curse" of TV into the blessing and brightness it can be—if you learn how to use it proactively.

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2 ROCK OF AGES | 11:00, 2:00, 5:00, 7:00

3 MADAGASCAR 3: EUROPE'S MOST WANTED | 12:30, 2:45, 5:00, 7:15, 9:30

4 FRENCH FILM FESTIVAL | 12:00, 3:00, 6:00, 7:30

SNOW WHITE AND THE HUNTSMAN | 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30

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2 Kimmyderra and the Temple of Kiyeme | 11:00am • 1:10pm • 3:20pm • 5:30pm • 7:40pm • 9:50pm | Lock Out | 12:00nn • 2:10pm • 4:20pm • 6:30pm • 8:40pm • 10:50pm

3 Rock of Ages in 2D | 11:30am • 1:50pm • 4:10pm • 6:30pm • 8:50pm • 11:10pm | Snow White and the Huntsman | 12:10pm • 2:30pm • 4:50pm • 7:10pm • 9:30pm

4 Lock Out | 9:00am • 11:00am • 1:00pm • 3:00pm • 5:00pm • 7:00pm • 9:00pm | Snow White and the Huntsman | 11:40am • 2:00pm • 4:40pm

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2 Rock of Ages | 1:00pm—4:00pm • 6:30pm • 9:00pm—11:30pm

3 Kimmyderra and the Temple of Kiyeme | 1:50pm • 4:30pm • 7:10pm • 9:50pm • 12:15am

4 Lock Out | 1:15am • 3:40am • 8:05am • 10:30pm

5 Kimmyderra and the Temple of Kiyeme | 2:05pm • 5:10am—10:00pm • 10:30pm

6 Madagascar 3 in 2D | 1:00pm • 3:10pm • 5:30pm • 7:40pm • 9:50pm

Snow White and the Huntsman | 3:40pm • 8:20pm • 11:00pm

7 Rock of Ages | 2:40pm • 4:50pm • 7:20pm • 10:10pm

Ayala Cinemas CINEMAS

1 Rock of ages | 10:30am • 1:20pm • 4:10pm • 7:00pm • 9:50pm

2 Lock Out in 2D | 11:50am—12:30pm • 2:10pm • 4:30pm • 7:00pm—9:30pm

Rock of ages in 2D | 11:00am • 5:30pm—9:00pm

3 Madagascar 3 in 3D | 11:00am • 5:30pm—9:00pm | Snow White and the Huntsman | 1:00pm—3:30pm • 10:00pm

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ROCK OF AGES

NOTHIN' BUT A GOOD TIME

Mary J. Blige misses Whitney Houston

LOS ANGELES—"It's strange that you would say that right now, because this is the hotel she died in," Mary J. Blige answered when asked by a reporter about the late Whitney Houston, who once was her friend. We were in the Beverly Hilton, where the pop superstar died last Feb. 11.

"What I loved about Whitney was that she was a giver," said Mary, who has an arc of quite unlikely stand her. We've always been friends for the duration, because women's power and calm demeanor. "Whitney gave and gave until she died. No one gave her the things that she died. She died back, which was support and love. When I'm going to talk with me is to take care of myself and love myself. Something back. Just know that Whitney was an angel for women in the music business. I learned just how to be a lady from Whitney, and how to be a friend because she was my friend, friend, as well."

The singer behind eight multi-platinum albums said she hers said had a bumpy road before meeting a small circle of friends and friends that she could trust. "It took me a long time to get here," she admitted. "I made horrible people choices, because I didn't love or like myself. So, I drove people to me who probably hated me but felt it. And so it was, 'Oh Mary, do the drugs, do this, do that.' But when I was killed me. Now I make better people choices, and I love Mary more."

Mary, who is actively pursuing an acting career, plays Justice, the owner of a pool hall and club in the film adaptation of the hit stage musical, "Rock of Ages." While in case that includes Tom Cruise, Catherine Zeta-Jones, Russell Brand and Alec Baldwin, Mary gets to sing several '80s rock anthems.

Asked if there's a rebellious rock 'n roll-type woman in her life, I joined a rock-n' show, and I sing 'Stranded' by Heather & Herb, a man and a woman. I sing both. Have such. When you're 7 years old and people are standing up, cheering and screaming, you know you got something."

That 7 years-old has grown in to a 40-year-old woman, who candidly answered the question, "Where am I right now?," with, "I'm missing strength. Not that I'm not strong, but I need more of it."

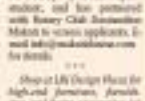
On what's missing in her life, she answered, "I have kids (three stepkids—the children of her husband, Kendu Isaacs), a mother (could be a better mother). I could definitely do that, but I'm definitely focused on them. I'm not really missing anything. But, I would love to have more strength to deal with things."

To keep centered in the chaotic world of show biz, Mary volunteered her mentor "Spirit, truly, in the morning, I must have time for myself, prayer time between God and me, talking. Reading Bible, being quiet for every little thing I have, asking for forgiveness for the things I did wrong, knowing that I'm forgiven, not walking in guilt and condemnation and feeling terrible, because by doesn't want me to feel bad. It's people who make you feel bad about things that it's already happened."

BLIGE: Actively pursuing an acting career

Deep voice

Looking ahead, Mary disclosed her dream project—to star in a Nina Simone biopic. "It's in the works," she chided. "It's something that we're talking about. It was a talking but it's about five years. I was going to sitting classes. I became a fan while I was studying her. I didn't know about her before, I've heard her songs and I would always say, 'Who is this soul?' Because she has a very



Pete and Boots, way back when

By Denise G. Tarre

ON OCCASION, some people ask me why Boots Anson-Roa and I have become such good friends and colleagues. Well, she was one of my students at CSE way back when.

Come to think of it, they single year I taught at UP's Department of Speech and Drama required me personally beautiful harvest of gifted classified friends and colleagues—Jaclyn Geronimo, Edmund Garcia, Angelo Cedro Jr., Ary Buenaventura, Nilliane Gonguli, Pat Latcaro, Cecile Gordon, etc.

But, Boots turned out to be one of my most favorite friends, because every other IPU continued to involve her in his direction in many productions—"The Owl and The Pussycat," "Wanda" ("The Miracle Worker" in Filipino), "Fabe Fio," "Pope John Paul II," the Fidel Ramos TV show, etc.

Major factor

A major factor in the strong and productive nature of my relationship is the fact that Boots' late husband, Pete Roa, was one of the constant influences in my career.

For one thing, he was the executive producer of "Two For the Road," which I originated and directed on ABS-CBN.

He was also Boots' cortar in "The Owl and The Pussycat," which made it possible for her to engage in kissing and bed scenes (I think she would never have done such any other) leading man, to the mature audience's surprise and delight. (I still get myself on the back for that inspired stroke of casting "genius.").

Later, I tricked the tables on Pete by urging him to be one of the cohosts of the pilot, sewing magazine show "Sinulugan," that I wrote and directed for PTV4. Incidentally, that show was quite a memorable production. Its cohosts were Boots, sweet Rosa Gil, and the late Boy Vitz and Gigi Lawson...a formidable quartet all around!

And, for the cherry on top of the compote that already yummy cake, it was produced by the acclaimed Leo Rojas, and Annie Lim

BOOTS (WITH PETE, RIGHT): Valuable "group lessons," learned.

before he became a department head at the National Theatre in London.

Regular groupie

At ABS-CBN, Pete got me to write and direct other shows, like "The Chit-Chat Show Hour" Along with Pete, Edmund and Groupie Arnos, he joined as a regular (meaning, almost nightly) groupie of the iconic Ethel Rhondon, as the personal of my every week-nightly "PTH" whereat (gorgeous cohosts, Ary Buenaventura and then Debbie Meyer, couple couldn't keep me with his night-out hours).

My very GMG divorced mother, was mad all, and joined her in her nocturnal "surveys" of what Rhonda's night wear had to offer—the more outre, the better—and learned a lot of valuable "group lessons" in the process.

For one thing, I realized what a great and loyal friend Pete was—not just to me, but also to the many beneficiaries of his amazing kindness and generosity, and how important it was for him to discover and support really gifted talents, especially when they were obscure on their luck.

A memorable case in point was the night when Dave popped up unexpectedly and dropped me to an unknown destination, which turned out to be a really small hole-in-the-wall music lounge in MOA. Red Pina.

Popularity

What were we there for? To listen to his new jazz spoon, Annie Brand, at a low point in her career. Her music is composed only by a guitarist, but her performance was so fine and pure that I understood why Pete had promoted her for, despite her dismal showing been forgotten by many of her former admirers.

I became an instant fan of Annie, too—and that night, I hatched a plot with Pete to help her dismiss jazz queen under a comeback. I wrote about her, directed my students in Radio-Broadcasting to interview her, and Annie proceeded to again impress people with her great gift and artistry. ...And all because Pete had remained steadfast in his admiration of and support for her great talent, even if the rest of the music world had passed her by.

Months later, Pete smilingly showed me an ad that promoted that "successfully comeback-ed" Annie Brandt's big show in a posh five-star hotel. ...Mission accomplished!

For this and many other reasons, when Boots asked me to become a trustee of PETAKC, the Pete Roa Scholarship Fund, she's just up to Pete's memory, I agreed...with alacrity.

Pete lives many no longer be with us, but his many "memories," and the need to keep upholding them, live on.

MAGIC: (third from left), Frank Fenton, Dr. Joachim Baldero and Rami Cano

Premium on leadership

STREET SMART
Mandy Yaptenco

MS. JANET Rook was the week's special guest speaker at the general membership meeting of the Rotary Club of Manila-el Manila Pen Club.

She taught in the 1970s 10 years before moving with her husband to Spain, then moved to the British School of Beijing fourteen years ago. She is the first of her family teacher in Bangs School Manila.

Rook puts a premium on leadership, creativity, honesty and integrity.

Scholarship grant

Opening in August, Bangs School Manila is located at Bonifacio, Annex Business Park (next Mall of Asia). Visit bangsmanila.com, or call 556-3172.

It's offering a scholarship grant for a lucky 4-year-old Kindergarten student, and has partnered with Rotary Club Intramuros-Makati to screen applicants. E-mail info@makatiintramuros.com for details.

* * *

Shop at Lily Design Plaza for high-end furniture, furnishings and home accessories (at 2/F Shangri-La Plaza, Mandaluyong, and E. Rodriguez Ave.). Visit lilydesignplaza.com, or call 695-1772.

Fathers are under-appreciated

LOTUS POND
R. Valencia and S. Bernardo

SOME RESORTS on Father's Day:

• Fathers go through such a lot to raise their children well. Many of them may be underappreciated, but there's no doubt in how the happiness the Rizz who Mommy them with happiness and good humor.

• A father's best gift: live for kids include wisdom, love and values, which serve to their lifetime measures of wealth.

• Fatherhood is so easy task...don't apply if you aren't qualified!

• The more you understand about the importance of fatherhood, the less you honor him.

• A man who knows how to love others is capable of running a family. If he cannot even be responsible for himself, he should postpone his marriage plans!

• A father is the family's most dynamic leader. He leads, disciplines, counsels and applies rules, manages family resources, educates and serves. He is the executive, legislative and judicial branches rolled into one!

• Bad fathers think of others before themselves.

• A wise father makes his wife and kids better persons.

• An ideal father represents the goodness of the Supreme Father. He knows and follows what is good.

• Fatherhood is temporary, but being a child of God is eternal!

'Spartacus: Vengeance' premieres on June 22

ON JUNE 22 at 10 p.m., the new 10-episode season of "Spartacus: Vengeance" premieres on Cinemax, with the riveting historical drama finding all of Capua in an uproar, because the gladiators have escaped. Spartacus (Liam McGovern) seems to avenge the death of his wife, but soon becomes a fugitive, as he topples the Roman empire!

Soccer Mania at SM Supermalls

Soccer Mania swept Summer 2012 when it returned for an other round of free football clinics (after successfully organized last September). Clinics for kids ages 5 to 12 years old were taught soccer basics by The Philippines Azkals to help grow every free multi-million soccer pipeline.

With Summer swing, kids will have a ready supply of essential minerals in the form of bananas for energy and vitamin C to protect them from sickness. Hundreds of kids participated in the games and were also treated to a Philippine football showdown between Phillip Wilson Gutierrez and Dennis Dallisay.

'Storage Wars' on Blu

The popular American reality TV show, "Storage Wars," premieres at 9 p.m. on Monday, June 18, on Blu. It follows five teams that are in pursuit of hidden treasure locked within California's abandoned storage units.

Visit bluchannel.com.ph/storagewars and find out if the auction will be held on the auction unit's lease!

Dads rock at Festival Mall

Festival Mall in Alabang Muntinlupa Father's Day events enjoyable on June 17 with a special show featuring Ramon "RJ" Jacinto at the Carousel Court. And "Here for the Big Boys" on June 15-16 features the biggest collection of cars, laptops, gadgets, etc.!

DJ championship finals

On June 17, the country's best turntable masters will compete to represent the country in the 2012 DMC Asian Invasion World DJ Championship— Philippine finals, to be held from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. at CircleVip Superclub in Quezon City. Call 470-2222.

Extended until July 21

Get 60 minutes of free roaming internet when you apply for a Sun Postpaid line. Your free unlimited browse is valid for one month after the activation of your new postpaid line. The promo has been extended until July 31. To get more info on how to avail of Sun Cellular's hands-free services, visit the nearest Sun Shop, or log on to www.sunfreeline.com.ph.

Chicharron ni Mang Juan Spicy Sisig gives a unique twist to a Pinoy snacktime favorite

Movies on TV

—On HBO today at 10:25 a.m., "Jurassic Park" is on at 7:15 p.m., "The Fugitive" June 12 at 5:45 p.m., "Hereafter," June 13 at 7:00 p.m., "Never Say Never Again," June 20 at 10 p.m., "Rango," June 21 at 6 p.m., "Back to the Future," June 22 at 9:55 a.m., "Back to the Future 3."

Dad's the best at Eastwood Cafe

On June 17, fans the tables on Dad and treat him to a gracious and delicious buffet at Eastwood Cafe at Eastwood Richmonde Hotel. The lunch Father's Day lunch and dinner buffet lets diners on a gastronomic expedition of yummy international fare. Call 570-7777.